Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-91-214 *5 November 1991*

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Parlacen Ends Inaugural Session in Guatemala

PA0311130591 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1527 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 2 Nov (DPA)—Central American Parliament (Parlacen) President Roberto Carpio Nicolle reported on 2 November that the organization, which was inaugurated 28 October, has ended its first round of debates. Parlacen approved some of its internal regulations, and appointed commissions to begin the integration process in the isthmus.

The forum began deliberations following a stormy 13-hour session between 27 and 28 October to elect the president and the others on the board of directors. It has already approved most articles in the internal regulations.

Carpio reported that it was also agreed to form interim commissions on the environmental, international relations, human rights, cultural affairs, social assistance, labor and social affairs, and communications. The deputies agreed that other commissions that may be considered important for Parlacen duties may be added to the list.

The deputies to the Parlacen, which was initially formed by El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, began returning to their countries on 2 November. The debates will continue on 25 November, either in El Salvador or in Honduras in order to give the organization mobility.

In accordance with the treaty, Parlacen headquarters will be in Esquipulas, Guatemala, very close to the border with El Salvador and Honduras and the so-called Trifinio Central American development area.

Carpio said that a permanent Parlacen building will be built in Esquipulas, for which the EC has offered to donate $50 million.

Perez on Role, Size of Armies in Latin America

FL0411132991 Bridgetown CANA in English 2242 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Nov 2, CANA—Venezuela President Carlos Andres Perez on the final of a two-day visit to Dominica said Saturday that Latin American countries needed to ensure that the military coup in Haiti was unsuccessful and suggested revision of the role and size of armies in Latin America. He said this was in the interest of safeguarding South and Central America from similar military takeovers.

Perez said that during the past few years these countries seemed to have been able to reverse the trend of military coups and takeovers which had previously plagued Latin America. They could not afford to have the military in Haiti get away with the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, which could signal to the armed forces in Latin America that they could again jump on the bandwagon, he added.

"Our societies are aware that they do not want more military dictatorship, and this is why the coup in Haiti is of such dramatic importance," said Perez, accompanied here by Aristide who has taken refuge in Venezuela.

"If we admit the consolidation of a new military government, we will lose the conquest we have achieved," he explained.

Perez said success in bringing Aristide back to Haiti as its legitimate president would send a strong signal to the military in Haiti and any other country, that "they cannot go back into power."

The Venezuelan leader said the role of the army in countries like Haiti and others in Latin America needed to be reviewed but acknowledged that they could not do without an Army.

"There should be a kind of rational reduction of the size of the armies, so they respond to our realities, and not for us to have to invest plenty money, while we have so many (economic) needs to fulfil," Perez said.

He appeared at a news conference here Saturday with Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Dominica's prime minister, Dame Eugenia Charles. The two leaders are in the prorcess of winding up a courtesy visit to Dominica, on the occasion of the island's thirteenth anniversary of political independence, which falls officially on 3d November. Dominica gained its independence from Britain on November 3, 1978.

Andean Drug Conference Opens in Bolivia

PY0511110091 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde today opened the third Andean regional conference on drug abuse. He said that alternative development is a priority within the framework of the struggle against drug trafficking.

The conference will conclude on 8 November. Representatives of the executive branch, the U.S. ambassador, Bolivian, Peruvian, Colombian, and Ecuadoran delegations, and U.S. Government officials are participating in the conference. Members of the U.S. Armed Forces are also participating as sponsors of the conference. [passage omitted]

Cuba

Economic Problems Reflected in Service Sectors

Reduction in Transportation

FL0411162291 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1313 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Numerous changes are going into effect in the public transport schedule as a result of the scarcity of fuel and electricity that confront the country, as well as in the availability of materials and short supply of spare parts. Even though measures have already been adopted in accordance with what each moment demands, such as adjustments in the schedules of trains and national buses and service reductions along several routes in determined parts of the country, new decisions are starting to be implemented and others are being studied in search of the maximum use of the equipment in accordance with the available supplies.

For those who desire information on the city buses in Havana, there has been an integrated study so, independent of the number of daily runs, which number 18,000 more or less, the co-efficient will be increased in the routing of the buses because they have been based upon routing along the principle streets and most direct routes. The reduction of several bases is being studied given that these methods, in a similar way, will be applied in the rest of the country.

Taxis will be prioritized for the service of hospitals and the number of taxis nationally will be reduced to a level that can be maintained and operated efficiently. To avoid the depression of the rest of the sector, variations will be applied that will make possible profits for the national economy.

Regarding maritime services and those of the Juventud-Batabano route, the operating of the Grand Ferry, that consumes great amounts of fuel and spare parts, will be eliminated. Motor transport between Batabano and Havana has become more difficult recently.

Regarding national buses, adjustments will be made in the daily schedule of departures and arrivals. The work of garages will be adjusted with the objective of eliminating two shifts. Reducing the number of ticket agents by modifying their schedules is being studied.

Regarding trucks, Sunday and holiday transport is being eliminated. On Saturdays, only the most highly prioritized runs, for which arrival is guaranteed, will be made. Generally, transportation will be organized so that it is carried out during daylight hours.

Regarding national trains, departure on alternating days of trains numbers one and two, Havana-Santiago de Cuba, and seven and eight, Havana-Bayamo-Manzanillo, which up until now have been running daily, has been proposed. The studies, carried out by the railway sector in search of ways to reduce electricity consumption, have resulted in the reorganization and repair of locomotive engines and passenger cars. Reducing the number of functioning stations on the various lines is being studied. Only trains with essential cargo will be run, operating on alternating schedules, and the cancellation of trains running for enterprises have been announced.

Cafeterias Adjust Schedules

FL0411205991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Today the newspaper TRABAJADORES has published Resolution 13 for 1991, issued by the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, which deals with adjustments in the work regulations and schedules at workers' cafeterias due to shortages.

The text says that as a consequence of the conditions that have been imposed on the country by the special period, supply problems have been noted at work center cafeterias, making it necessary for administrators to specify priorities in cafeteria use and propose the most advisable work regulations and schedules.

The resolution states that state central administration and provincial people's government organizations will propose to the State Committee for Labor and Social Security, along with [words indistinct] unions the adjustments that should be implemented at each work center. There are various alternatives, such as the implementation of a single [words indistinct] schedules for the beginning and end of shifts; and determining which workers should receive the cafeteria services; among others.

Resolution 13 of 1991, issued by the State Committee for Labor and Social Security and published in TRABAJADORES today, also states that workers whose hours are reduced as a consequence of whatever work regulations may be approved, including not working on Saturdays, will receive 70 percent of their set wages, except for those who earn up to 100 pesos monthly. These workers will receive 100 percent of their wages. The same wage considerations will also apply to those whose work hours are reduced due to prior suspension of their working Saturdays or modification of their working day. This resolution will take effect beginning 23 November 1991.

All PCC Members To Study Congress Resolutions

FL0111193391 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Beginning 1 November and continuing until next January, all Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] units and members will conduct an examination and detailed analysis of Fidel's speeches, and of the documents approved at the Fourth PCC Congress, to absorb their meaning and the practical implementation of resolutions

made at the congress. Party cadres will begin the meetings at provincial and municipal levels, with the attendance of delegates and guests at the event. These delegates will later participate in discussions with other party members at the grass roots level. Successive meetings will study the resolutions on party statutes and the resolution that gives special powers to the Central Committee, as well as those concerned with the economic development of the country, organization and functioning of the People's Government, the party program, and finally, the one on foreign relations.

Power of Socialism in Crime Prevention Noted

FL0511142291 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] At a meeting in Santiago de Cuba where economic crimes and the prevention of antisocial attitudes were analyzed, Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura stated that only socialism, under the direction of our single party and Fidel, has the necessary power to create an intransigent revolutionary climate against criminal activities and the black market.

Machado emphasized that once convinced of the success of this fight the necessary spirit for the elimination of paternalism in all its forms and the strict application of the law to punish interference with, destruction of, or mismanagement of state resources will be created.

Castro Interviewed by Venezuelan Newspaper

PA0411175791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1444 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Caracas, 4 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The latest reforms approved by the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] are intended to perfect the country's political system and "we are willing to do even more" according to the circumstances, Cuban President Fidel Castro has stated.

In an interview published by the Caracas newspaper EL NACIONAL, Castro said: "We have done a number of things for ourselves, not to please anyone else, and not to please the Yankees, but to perfect our system, our democracy."

He termed the PCC's opening to those who practice religion as "a matter of justice" and noted the willingness of the Cuban people to accept Latin American capital as the way to advance toward regional integration.

Castro was asked what sacrifices Cuba is willing to make to achieve integration. He responded: "We are prepared to do almost anything."

He also emphasized how the Fourth PCC Congress approved the direct election of the deputies to the National Assembly of the People's Government, "from which emerges all the state branches."

"We are willing to do more as circumstances demand," he said, without offering details.

Castro declined to talk about Cuba's material needs, "due to an elemental sense of dignity," at a time when the island faces interruptions and a reduction of oil shipments from the Soviet Union.

"What we need today is a lot of spiritual strength; (the Venezuelan people) help us by stating their encouragement and sympathy. That is what gives us strength amid difficult circumstances. Spiritual strength is superior to material strength," he said.

Castro gave a speech last week at the Venezuelan Embassy in Cuba, during a ceremony to honor Maria Teresa Castillo, president of the Cuban-Venezuelan Association and a sympathizer of the Cuban Government and the Sandinist regime in Nicaragua.

According to the newspaper, the 65-year-old leader "looks a bit more tired than the last time we saw him (February 1989), and he looks very tired...(because) sometimes he works around the clock without sleeping; this was evident in his eyes and face."

Officials Protest 'Obscenities' of U.S. Soldiers

PA0211233791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1818 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Havana, 2 Nov (EFE)—Cuban officials reported on 2 November that U.S. soldiers at Guantanamo Naval Base (1,000 km east of Havana) have been shouting obscenities and making obscene gestures at Cubans.

At a news conference held in the Cuban Foreign Ministry's International Press Center, Hector Argiles, the director of this department, showed journalists a video filmed by the Armed Forces showing a soldier at the U.S. base making various offensive gestures. The soldier, a guard in a watch tower, touches his genitals, makes mocking faces, and finally pulls down his pants and shows his buttocks to the Cuban Armed Forces' filming crew.

The event took place on 10 August 1991. The Cubans protested to the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba, which responded to the Cuban protest by saying "that after a thorough investigation" they had reached the conclusion that the incident had never occurred.

Argiles pointed out that, in any case, similar incidents and actions of harassment—such as beaming light at the Cuban posts around the base and violating Cuban airspace with aircraft from the base—have occurred previously throughout the entire year, but these actions increased in October.

Asked by EFE if the Cuban Government's report of this incident was in any way connected to the upcoming debates in the United Nations on the U.S. economic blockade against the island, Argiles said no, adding that they only wanted the public to know about the situation.

The report issued today complements a still stronger one issued on 1 November by the newspaper GRANMA, the

mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Cuba. The report stated that the Cuban Government accuses the United States of systematically carrying out acts of provocation and "war games" from Guantanamo Naval Base. GRANMA denounced the increase of ships, aircraft, helicopters, and soldiers on the base. There is normally a contingent of 6,000 persons, including military personnel and civilians, in an area of approximately 100 km that the United States has occupied since 1903.

Cuba has insistently demanded the return of this territory. Recently, as a result of the Soviet Union's announcement that it will pull out the Soviet Army brigade stationed on the island, the Cuban Government has stated that the United States should also leave Guantanamo.

Havana Cites U.S. Economic Difficulties

FL0511033491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The unemployment rate and the deficit are the two major problems that the administration of George Bush must face at the beginning of the current U.S. presidential election campaign. The U.S. President returned from the Middle East conference in Madrid to face an economy with serious problems which are surfacing, especially during this electoral period. Some polls show an increase in the unemployment figures, the bankruptcy rate of banks and businesses, as well as the cancellation of many transactions. A recent report also shows that the federal deficit has increased to $268 billion, the highest in history. All these indicators and the recession that started in 1990 could take votes away from the Republicans during the upcoming elections.

Aristide's Trip, Dominican Solidarity Noted

FL0511031791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the constitutional president of Haiti, arrived today in Grenada, the second nation on his tour of the Caribbean region. Aristide, who was deposed by a military coup on 30 September, continues his efforts to gain the necessary support to reinstate democracy in Haiti. During a news conference with Grenadian reporters, the Haitian leader expressed his hope of returning to power soon if all the economic and political sanctions announced by various countries and international organizations are upheld against the regime.

Meanwhile, expressions of solidarity with the Haitian people continue. Hundreds of people took to the streets in the Dominican Republic to protest the regime imposed in Haiti, and demanding the reinstatement of its constitutional president. Several citizens organizations of the Dominican Republic, which shares the island with Haiti, sponsored this expression of solidarity with the Haitian people across its national territory.

Likewise, reports from Port-au-Prince say that protests are increasing against the self-proclaimed government in Haiti. Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat today alleged the existence of a national and international plot against his government.

Further on Castro at International Trade Fair

FL0411140091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has inaugurated the Ninth Havana International Fair being held at the ExpoCuba site. More than 700 commercial firms from 26 countries are attending the event, including 110 Cuban enterprises.

In his speech, Fidel spoke of Cuban participation at these kinds of fairs, which is increasing during these difficult times. Later, the leader of the Cuban revolution said that changes in the world require us to work as hard or harder than we did during the early days of the revolution but that now we have a lot more experience and knowledge.

[Begin Fidel recording] We are determined that not one factory will be idle because of shortages in raw material or other resources. If we have the machinery and the men, there are many ways of associating with foreign business. Possibilities are raining down, really, I must tell you, the offers, ideas, proposals of every kind, all trusting in the seriousness of our country. Our associates will be our associates, will be our comrades. They will share in our profits. The distribution of their capital will be easier than anywhere else in the world because the dissemination of capital is automatic due to the way our businesses are set up, with greater facility than in any other place.

They will not be the owners of our country as sometimes happens. Foreign companies come into a country and end up owning the country. The Cubans will be the owners of our country. But we will be the best associates, the best allies in the search for common interests with all those who want to work together with us and who have confidence in us. [end recording]

Castro Discusses Trade Contacts

FL0411231491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro inaugurated the Ninth Havana International Fair which will be held through 10 November. After a brief tour of the fair, Fidel granted an interview to our television reporting crew.

[Begin recording] [Castro] Yes, of course I plan to return. It is impossible to see it all today. To visit the fair you have to choose the right time to come. Lots of people. Touring the fair turns out to be the most exhausting thing in the world. I am interested, but do you know

what it entails visiting over 100 exhibits, and if you miss any of them, you get in trouble, people get upset, offended.

[Unidentified reporter] I remember last year...

[Castro] To visit all of them is impossible, and I at least have to see the Cuban exhibits.
[Reporter] I was saying that the number of countries participating has surpassed the estimates.

[Castro] That proves that the roads we are following are very promising and could be very successful. The people are responding because they are aware of the reliability of the country and because the initial results of the things we have done have been very good, as I have said. It is beneficial for them and for us, based on mutual benefit—what I have said before—to have facilities, organization in the country, labor harmony, complete warranties in the repatriation of their investments, things which are not very common in other countries.
[Reporter] You have spoken of the success we are having with joint enterprises in tourism?

[Castro] Yes, with the first enterprises.
[Reporter] There are already eight.

[Castro] Yes, there are several. The first hotel has had an occupancy rate of almost 90 percent, and the period for recovering the original investment is extremely brief. The second will be inaugurated in a few days.
[Reporter] El Melia Hotel in Varadero.

[Castro] We are building a few more, and if we can, we will build as many as possible. [repeats] If we can, we will build as many as possible.
[Reporter] We just visited the Santiago Hotel in Santiago de Cuba.

[Castro] Very pretty, ah?
[Reporter] We were able to admire its quality. It truly is a five-star.

[Castro] Have you been invited to rest there at least for a day?
[Reporter] Yes.

[Castro] The press was invited.
[Reporter] We toured all of the tourism development region of Santiago.

[Castro] But where did you stay?
[Reporter] At the Santiago Hotel.

[Castro] Good, I am glad. I congratulate and envy you.
[Reporter] Commander, if you return to the fair again, which country would you be interested in seeing?

[Castro] Again? Several of them, because each has different subjects, but with some of them we have more trade and technological exchanges.
[Reporter] Spain continues to be the country with the largest representation at the fair.

[Castro] Yes, it has a large representation. We buy many things from Spain.
[Reporter] There is Iraq, which is a new entry.

[Castro] Which?
[Reporter] Iraq.

[Castro] Yes, Iraq.
[Reporter] It is participating for the first time.

[Castro] Yes, and we did not have...[changes thought] The trade with the Italians is also increasing because, for example, they produce many machines which we use in the pharmaceutical industry. There are many other countries. We buy from many places. We just do not publicize too much where we buy things, to prevent the Yankees from coming in with their meddling and spoiling things as usual.
[Reporter] Latin America is also well represented in the fair.

[Castro] Yes, it is well represented. We are very glad.
[Reporter] Well commander, we hope to see you around here again.

[Castro] It was my pleasure. You can count on it.
[Reporter] I remember that last year [words indistinct].
[end recording]

PRC Official Stresses Ties

FL0511025691 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2104 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] (Shi Xichuan), trade adviser of the People's Republic of China [PRC] Embassy in Cuba, has said that Chinese experts are conducting agricultural studies and projects in Havana, Camaguey, and Granma Provinces for the purpose of contributing to the development of Cuba. The Asian diplomat granted an interview at the Ninth Havana International Fair which is being held until 10 November at Expocuba. Companies from approximately 20 countries are participating in the fair.

(Shi Xichuan) said that Chinese experts, with the assistance of Cuban experts, are making important contributions in the field of aquaculture, which have resulted in increasing the survival rate of larvae from 15 to 50 percent. The trade adviser of the Chinese Embassy also said that through joint efforts, satisfactory results are being obtained as well in the porcine and equine sectors.

(Shi Xichuan) said during a news conference at the Expocuba fair that 20 enterprises from the PRC, dedicated mainly to electromechanical equipment, are participating in the Ninth Havana International Fair, with the hope of receiving gold medal awards. (Shi Xichuan) added that exciting joint ventures are being planned with Cuba for next year. The Asian diplomat added that as a result of negotiations, Cuba will receive cereals and other types of food items such as canned meats, in addition to electromechanical equipment and domestic appliances.

Likewise, other trade ties are being studied, which should undoubtedly help to further Cuban plans in several sectors.

(Shi Xichuan] emphasized that the PRC is interested in establishing scientific and technological cooperation with Cuba. He added that his country is interested in developing ties in the fields of biotechnology, medicine, and the sugar industry, as well as establishing cooperation in the light industry sector. The PRC is also interested in Cuban interferon and our ample selection of medical equipment. For this reason, it is expected that trade negotiations will be completed in the near future. (Shi Xichuan) added that the PRC is also establishing ties with Latin America, a region in which the PRC plans to increase trade operations.

Business Opportunities Presented

FL051114149l Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The Havana International Fair has its own well-defined personality, well-defined with regard to conducting operations. An autonomy in the operations of the foreign export firms can be observed; evidence that the manufacturer acts as the exporter of what he produces. This system makes it possible for 40 new national firms to be attendance at this ninth international fair. [Words indistinct] 1,500 square meters.

This increase in self-management is not a coincidence. It is the result of Cuba developing its economic policies thereby allowing these different forms of production and trade to exist in an international context.

The economic possibilities, reflected in the Havana International Fair, are extensive and varied, and ultimately socialist in nature. More than 100 plans for new businesses are being discussed as well as a communist cooperation plan between Cuba and other countries. Some of these proposals include medical products such as medications and medical equipment. These are attractive products to nations interested in Cuba's goal to export health.

Choice Citrus Crop Exported to Western Europe

FL0111144091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] The first grapefruit shipped from the Isle of Youth to Western Europe have been of outstanding quality. This has been the preliminary result of the Isle of Youth citrus farmers' project to export first-rate grapefruit grown under the highest standards, transforming the typical agrarian campaign. Despite the difficult economic situation of the country and shortages of material resources, renewed efforts were made on this project to boost the acquisition of currency and establish a precedent for further development.

The Fresh Fruit Processing Center has processed up to seven different kinds of fruit, including those destined for the international market. Responding to specific consumer requests has presented a great challenge to the workers.

Rosales Stresses Importance of CD Tunnels

FL0211174591 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1509 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro has emphasized during the National Meeting on Civil Defense [CD] Tunnels, the importance of, among other things, working with a specific goal in mind, seeking alternatives to save resources, and developing expertise in camouflage. The first vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and chief of the General Staff participated in the analysis of the decisions of the work groups which met for three days at the Maximo Gomez FAR Academy.

Experts from several FAR commands attended the event with the purpose of increasing the efficiency and quality of this work while keeping in mind national needs and resources. The participants, who worked in commissions and a plenum, toured facilities of this kind in Havana and exchanged experiences seeking to find technical and tactical solutions to perfect this effort.

Haiti

Pro-Aristide Demonstration Reported in Gonaives

FL0411211891 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Report by Gonaives correspondent Exil Noel Ediles]

[Excerpt] Several hundred people demonstrated in the streets of Gonaives on 1 November to demand Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to power. We will now listen to a report by our colleague Exil Noel Ediles.

[Begin Ediles recording] Seven hundred people took to the streets of Gonaives on 1 November to demonstrate against the current government. Demonstrators, swarming through the streets of Gonaives, hurled abuses at General Raoul Cedras, Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat, and such parliamentarians as Senate President Dejean Belizaire. They continually demanded that Aristide be returned to power.

The demonstrators played a game of hide-and-seek with the military who kept trying to disperse them. Whenever the military approached, they moved away to regroup elsewhere. They said they would not return to school until those who had seized power resigned. In the meantime, they would demonstrate every day. The crowd chanted: Aristide or death! [passage omitted] [end recording]

Students, Workers Call For Return of Aristide

FL0511121291 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Many students and workers in Haiti have responded to a call for a boycott of schools and the workplace calling for the return to power of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Sparsely attended classes greeted the opening day of school yesterday in Port-au-Prince as soldiers with machine guns stood guard outside. In the country about 45 percent of Haitian youngsters are even enrolled in school and less than that number showed up.

Soldiers also patrolled nearly empty streets in the downtown area of Port-au-Prince where many businesses were closed. Sixteen organizations across the country, including the National Federation of Haitian Students, the General Central of Workers, and the Association of Popular Organizations, had called for a school and work walkout. Leaflets were distributed on Sunday which also called on Haitians to organize resistance to the military government.

Meanwhile, the military halted two demonstrations, one in Port-au-Prince, a second one in the port city of Gonaives 100 km to the north. Both public gatherings were to call for Mr. Aristide's return.

Canada has imposed wide-ranging economic sanctions against the present Haitian Government in compliance with recommendations approved by the Organization of American States. Canadian Foreign Minister Barbara McDougall says Canada will suspend bilateral trade and will only supply food exports that are required for humanitarian reasons.

Long lines of cars waited for up to two hours to buy gasoline yesterday. The gas is in short supply. Government attempts to get fuel shipments have so far been unsuccessful.

An OAS negotiating team is set to arrive in Haiti tomorrow on the question of the return of President Aristide.

Honorat Accuses Former Government of Plot

FL0411230191 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] On 3 November, Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat denounced an antinational plot, a conspiracy, he said, which allowed foreigners to occupy the country. Without mentioning names, Honorat, in an interview on Television Nationale d'Haiti, accused officials of the overthrown government in a foreign embassy of brandishing the threat of foreign intervention against the country. He blamed foreigners for never having forgiven Haiti for winning its independence in 1804, and criticized a national policy of disinformation and destabilization that is being waged from an embassy. He never mentioned exactly which embassy.

Honorat also criticized the OAS embargo against Haiti. He compared it to a commercial blockade based on a fundamentally illegal resolution. While questioning the authority by which the OAS had voted for this embargo, Honorat said such a measure should be applied only to a country which has violated a point of international law. This, he argued, is not the case with Haiti. He represented the military coup as an accident attributable to the weakness of the Haitian democratic structure, citing systematic violations of the Constitution by the former regime. He explained that the only organ capable of opposing the former regime's antidemocratic violence was the Army.

Honorat expressed the hope that mutual respect could be maintained during negotiations with the OAS delegation due in Port-au-Prince on 6 November, at the same time denouncing in advance any dictate imposed on Haiti which could force it to negotiate.

He urged the population to send their children to school today, 4 November, condemning politicians for preventing students from attending school by threatening them with acts of violence. This strategy, he said, is being orchestrated from an embassy, again failing to name the embassy.

Cites Plot From Foreign Embassy

PA0411213991 Paris AFP in Spanish 0459 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 3 Nov (AFP)—Jean Jacques Honorat, prime minister of the "provisional" government of Haiti, charged on 3 November, that there is "an antinational plot aimed at permitting foreigners to intervene in Haiti."

During an interview granted to state television, Honorat accused several officials of the deposed government "who are sitting in a foreign embassy" and who "have issued threats about an intervention" in the country, of being involved in this plot. Honorat did not name these former government officials.

The prime minister spoke of "the whites who never forgave Haiti for gaining its independence in 1804" and of "a misinformation and national destabilization policy" promoted by the people in that embassy, which he also did not identify.

He criticized the OAS-imposed embargo against Haiti. He views the embargo as a "commercial blockade based on a fundamentally illegal resolution." He wondered: "What right do they have to declare an embargo against Haiti?" Honorat is of the opinion that an embargo is "a punitive measure applied to countries that violate international law," and this is not the case in Haiti.

The prime minister perceives the military coup as an "accident brought about by an infantile democratic framework" and pointed to the "systematic violations of

the Constitution committed by the regime of President Jean-Betrand Aristide. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Honorat believes that "the only institution that could have confronted the antidemocratic violence of the previous regime" was the Army. "The OAS listened to one side only and has adopted a biased position," Honorat said. He noted that the OAS acted with "haste."

Regarding the visit that an OAS delegation will make to Port-au- Prince 6 November, Honorat proposed to negotiate with the delegation in a climate of "mutual respect" and denounced beforehand any eventual attempt at coercive imposition.

Honorat urged the people to send their children to school 4 November and complained about politicians who use "school kids as hostages" and protested the "threats from an embassy" against students to dissuade them from going to their classrooms.

Honorat announced the installation soon of a Permanent Electoral Council "to strengthen constitutional legality."

Aristide Predicts Return To Power in 'Weeks'

FL0411153891 Bridgetown CANA in English 2012 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Nov 3, CANA—Haitian President Jean- Bertrand Aristide is predicting his return to power in weeks, if sanctions pledged by the international community against his country's military rulers are enforced.

"First we hope the embargo will become a reality," declared Aristide in Grenada on Sunday during a one-day official visit.

"We believe (that) in the Organisation of American States (OAS) and throughout the world there is very beautiful solidarity with the people of Haiti... but now... we want to see in practice how the same beautiful solidarity will make this time a short time...," he said.

"It is an international responsibility, and if sincerely they are concerned about defending democracy, if they are concerned about saving life, those who have the (power) must show how long they will continue to talk instead of to do," he said.

Aristide said he was aware that the longer the sanctions take to work, the longer he will be out of his country, however, he is not very confident that the international power that forced dictators Jean Claude Duvalier and General Prosper Avril from Haiti will once again succeed.

"Where is the international community that was in Moscow to help them against the coup, where is this same international community, when in Haiti the coup is over one month," he asked? Aristide was deposed by the Army September 30 and has taken refuge in Venezuela.

He ducked questions on whether he would support an armed invasion of his country to reinstate him. Once he returns to power in Port-au-Prince, Aristide said, he will seek to narrow the gap between the rich minority and the poor majority. He said money from large contraband and drug traders paid for the coup which toppled him one month ago.

Recounting his ordeal after his arrest, Aristide said "all those who were in prison for narcotics were already free so today they use their money from narcotics to support the coup."

He described a meeting on Saturday with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) leaders in Dominica as "beautiful", noting that the Caribbean is one family and should acknowledge each other's problems. He leaves the island Monday.

OAS Civilian Mission To Arrive on 6 Nov

FL0411191991 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] A source close to the Haitian Parliament has advised us that the OAS will send a mission to the country on Wednesday, 6 November in order to attempt to solve the Haitian political crisis. This mission that will be headed by former Colombian Foreign Affairs Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo will involve many people including interpreters. Argentine President Carlos Menen offered the OAS a special aircraft for this mission's travel to Haiti.

An OAS employee in Haiti said that the mission would stay in the country until it finds a solution to the crisis. During its visit, the OAS delegation will meet with numerous parliamentarians, the prime minister, and the commander in chief of the Army. The delegation will also meet with former Prime Minister Rene Preval, the heads of political parties, and representatives of the private sectors.

St. Lucia

Aristide To Give News Conference 4 Nov

FL0411143991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1904 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Nov 3, CANA—Deposed Haitian President Jean- Bertrand Aristide has made a last minute inclusion of St. Lucia among the Windward Islands he is visiting to drum up support for his reinstatement as the democratically elected president of his country.

According to the directors of Helen Television System (HTS), Aristide responded positively to an invitation from the station to come here. HTS director Valerie

Albert disclosed Saturday night that her station invited the Haitian leader to participate in its fortnightly Focus Caribbean programme, a one-hour spot dedicated to discussion of regional issues beamed live by satellite to 10 Caribbean territories.

Albert said: "The president responded positively to our invitation to come here. But because of his tight schedule he has agreed instead to participate in a press conference at HTS on Monday morning."

While here President Aristide will pay a courtesy call on Acting Governor General Stanislaus James. President Aristide will also visit Grenada after his special visit to Dominica with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Since his overthrow on September 30, President Aristide has been living in exile in Venezuela.

* Divergent Views on San Luis Potosi Voting

* Survey by Rights Groups

92CA0012A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish Special Supplement 26 Sep 91 pp II-VI

[Text of "Final Report of the Mexican Human Rights Academy and the San Luis Potosi Human Rights Center: The 1991 San Luis Potosi Electoral Process; Between Illegality and Immorality."]

[Text] In elections citizens choose the programs, parties, and individuals who will govern them for a specific period. Through the vote the people exercise their sovereignty, which is the basis of the government's authority. These are political rights, which are among our human rights. There are two universal principles for guaranteeing them: (a) "Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country"; and (b) "Periodic and genuine elections shall be held by universal and equal suffrage and by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures" (Article 21, Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

In electoral processes parties compete against each other, often emotionally, in a battle to convince the citizenry that each of them is the best choice. In order for emotions not to disrupt a civilized, peaceful contest, the rivals must be satisfied with the manner in which the elections are conducted. This is achieved when electoral processes abide by the aforementioned universal principles in legislation and in practice. A commitment among citizens, parties, and government to lawful, ethical elections makes democracy possible.

The Mexican Human Rights Academy (AMDH) and the San Luis Potosi Human Rights Center (CPDH), nongovernmental organizations that are independent of political parties, conducted a pilot program to promote political rights in the state of San Luis Potosi. The program had two major objectives: to encourage citizen involvement in the defense of their political rights and to check whether the electoral process abided by existing legislation and the aforementioned principles.

To this end, 2,500 residents of 350 communities in San Luis Potosi were given training; a "Manual for the Monitoring of Election Day" was compiled, and on election day 330 Mexicans monitored 750 voting booths (34.09 percent of the 2,200 that were installed throughout the state). This report summarizes the systematized information from 744 voting booths.

The main conclusion, which we will argue throughout the report, is that there were very serious violations of existing electoral legislation and the universal principles of human rights. Now then, we will neither endeavor nor are we authorized to voice an opinion on the validity of the election returns that the appropriate authorities made public. However, we have doubts about the legality of the entire electoral process, and the irregularities that we describe cause us to question the legitimacy and ethics of what we saw.

The Election Campaign

At the elections on 18 August 1991 the people of San Luis Potosi chose federal deputies, a senator, and their governor. The vote for governor was the one that aroused the most enthusiasm and interest. Although four candidates were running, the race boiled down to the candidates of the San Luis Potosi Democratic Coalition (CDP), Salvador Nava, and of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Fausto Zapata.

The campaigns lasted several months and, save minor incidents (the destruction of publicity from the CDP, the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM), and PRI, and verbal harassment among members of the various parties), there was no physical violence. Nonetheless, the quality of the debate was lowered by the constant name-calling and disparaging remarks among the adversaries.

Enthusiasm in an election campaign is healthy for a country because it shows that the voters are interested. Unfortunately, in San Luis Potosi enthusiasm gave way to rancor, owing to the atmosphere that developed during the campaign.

Most of the mass media in San Luis Potosi failed to fulfill their obligation to inform the citizenry objectively about the existing political choices and proposals. Although some radio stations showed a stronger disposition towards plurality, television and most of the press were clearly partial to the PRI candidates.

Channel 9 (San Luis Potosi Television, which is owned by the state government) offers an especially worrisome example of partiality. During the final days of the campaign this channel broadcast an extremely lengthy interview (in installments) with Fausto Zapata, failing to do likewise with the other gubernatorial candidates. Among other things, it thus showed that it had ceased to be a government TV channel and had become a partisan TV station.

The opposition grouped around the CDP had the support of just one magazine and one weekly tabloid. They too were clearly partial to CDP candidates.

In some regions of San Luis Potosi we also saw government officials intimidate citizens or use economic aid to help PRI candidates. We have documented such incidents in towns in the Huasteca region, the Pame area, Moctezuma, and Matehuala. We also gathered evidence in various parts of the state that government funds, offices, and vehicles (such as the DIF [System for Complete Family Development]) were used to campaign for PRI candidates.

Such partiality shows why the source of the funds used by political parties in general and PRI in particular must be investigated.

Another aspect that prompted uneasiness and suspicion was voter registration and credentials. Although we did not conduct any special study, the official figures show that more citizens were registered and issued credentials in predominantly rural districts (such as the seventh, whose main town is Tamazunchale) than in the state capital. The investigation coordinated by Cuauhtemoc Rivera ("Seven Points Concerning the 1991 Electoral Register for San Luis Potosi," no date, photocopy) stresses that there are very substantial errors in the register and that they were not involuntary errors but rather represented a definite attempt to help PRI candidates.

In short, the election campaigns created an atmosphere that was far from conducive to democratic procedures and explain the ill will that existed on election day, 18 August.

Election Day

The reports from our observers indicate that by and large the elections were conducted in a peaceful atmosphere with an uninterrupted flow of voters. We would also like to note that in doing our work (save for minor incidents) we were shown respect by the authorities, parties, and citizenry.

Nevertheless, we also recorded a great many irregularities of varying intensity and seriousness. As we can see in Table 1 in Annex 1, at 396 of 744 voting booths (54 percent) there were 50 different types of irregularities that represent violations either of the law or of the principles that make a genuine election possible.

We have compiled the information in two annexes. The first contains the summary tables and graphics. The second lists the 50 kinds of irregularities, including the law or principle violated, and gives specific examples.

All of the cases detailed in this report (and those included only in the summary tables) derive from eyewitness and documentary testimony from members of the monitoring groups. In other words, this document is based on what witnesses to the events saw. The examples were selected to justify and illustrate the conclusions of this report, conclusions which, moreover, derive from the sum total of the material we have gathered together.

Conclusions

Paragraph 2 of Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts that "everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country."

On this basis we conclude that the preferential access that PRI had to the mass media (press, radio, and television) over PARM, PPS [Popular Socialist Party], and CDP candidates violated this principle to the detriment of the opposition. The partiality shown by state-owned Channel 9 was especially serious.

The support that the authorities gave to PRI candidates also violated this principle.

Paragraph 3 of the aforementioned article says that "the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures."

The sum total of the irregularities that were recorded undermines the validity of the San Luis Potosi election. For example, the political rights of the San Luis Potosi residents who were unable to cast secret ballots or were coerced with promises of financial assistance if they voted for PRI candidates were violated. The eyewitness testimony gathered places the blame solely on members of that party or on local authorities. We have not received the list of complaints about other parties that PRI state leaders promised to send us.

The same could be said about those cases in which the results of the balloting at certain voting booths were altered (or attempts were made to alter them), or in which election officials failed to discharge their functions impartially.

Moreover, the right to vote of a great many residents of San Luis Potosi was violated. This was the result of deficient, selective voter registration and credential issuance. For example, citizens who had credentials were not on the lists of names, and in some cases the special voting booths where residents of San Luis Potosi who were outside the districts in which they live could vote for governor were not set up.

Several questions remain unanswered. One of them is the impact of these irregularities on the final results. In order to voice an opinion on this we would have had to be present at every stage of the electoral process and observed every voting booth, inasmuch as the observers agree that the irregularities in rural areas were more common and more serious. For example, of 327 voting booths monitored in the capital, there were irregularities in 32 percent. In the other 417 outside the city of San Luis Potosi, however, the irregularities increased by 70 percent. See Graph 2, Annex 1. The former demands changes in legislation; the latter, additional resources and organization.

A second question has to do with the responsibility for the irregularities that we observed. In other words, how many of them are due to inexperience and how many to fraud? In the case of those that could have been the result of fraud, are they due to individual acts or are they part of a master plan? If we assume that the latter is the case, at what level were the decisions made? We do not have an answer here either.

Nevertheless, the very fact that we are asking this question in the late 20th century bears witness to the tragic inadequacy of our elections and democracy.

Many of these doubts, which erode trust in the electoral process, arise from an inherent shortcoming in the process. One of the competing parties (PRI) is very close to the authorities who organize the elections. One of the actors, therefore, is both judge and jury. Until this shortcoming is resolved, the parties that the electoral authorities say lost will protest every election in Mexico. This impairs the health of the nation.

As for the election in San Luis Potosi, there is reason to doubt the legality of a high percentage of the voting booths that we monitored, and the legitimacy of the entire process was unquestionably tarnished. Under these conditions it bears asking ourselves very seriously whether it makes sense to vote in and monitor elections.

As nongovernmental human-rights organizations we demand that the corresponding federal and state authorities legislate, regulate, and conduct elections that will fully guarantee the political rights of Mexican citizens.

Recommendations

Regardless of the doubts to which elections such as the one in San Luis Potosi give rise, the vote remains one of the best ways for the people to exercise their sovereignty, which is the basis of the government's authority. Consequently, credible elections are a national necessity. On the basis of this principle and of our experience, and from the perspective of nonpartisan social organizations, we would like to make what we regard as minimum recommendations:

- Electoral processes must be organized by impartial bodies;
- The conduct of the mass media vis-a-vis political campaigns must be regulated in order to make sure that the citizenry receives objective, evenhanded information about party platforms.
- We feel that the parties must make it a point to publicize their campaign platforms and programs appropriately and to avoid disparaging their adversaries; and
- Additional government funds must be earmarked in election legislation for the training of citizens and officials.

These and other measures will lend the vote the legality and moral legitimacy that it must possess.

[Box, p IV]

Some Numbers About Our Monitoring Effort

—750 voting booths in 40 main towns (of the 56 in the state) were monitored.

—The election was observed by 330 Mexicans, divided into 30 groups with cars and groups that monitored their communities on foot.

—Twenty individuals provided support services at a headquarters and four regional offices.

—Of the participants 278 were from San Luis Potosi, while the rest were from Coahuila, the Federal District, Puebla, Veracruz, and Nuevo Leon.

—Forty-two percent of the participants were women, and 58 percent were men.

—The budget was 18 million in cash. A deficit of 8 million was incurred. The rest of the cost was defrayed with the contributions and volunteer work of the participants.

—Two members of the AMDH and two of the CPDH were jointly in charge of the coordination.

Annex 1

Table 1. Irregularities at Voting Booths

District	District Main Town	Number of Voting Booths Monitored	Number of Voting Booths With Irregularities	Percent
I and VI	San Luis Potosi	327	102	32.0
II	Matehuala	113	53	46.9
III	Rioverde	69	45	65.2
IV	Ciudad del Maiz	54	34	62.9
V	Ciudad Valles	76	57	75.0
VII	Tamazunchale	105	105	100.0
All		744	396	54

This table shows that the lowest percentage of irregularities occurred in the city of San Luis Potosi and that there were more in the other districts. The highest rate was in the Seventh Federal Electoral District, whose main town is Tamazunchale, followed by number five, whose main town is Ciudad Valles.

Annex 2

Types and Examples of Irregularities

The irregularities are listed in order of frequency. Thus, the most common irregularity was number one (inability

to cast secret ballot). When appropriate, the article that was violated is noted and, barring indication to the contrary, corresponds to the Cofipe [Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures] (federal law governed the state elections).

1. Inability to cast secret ballot:
Violation of Article 118, Section 2; Article 122, Section C; Article 4, Section 2.
The districts with the highest incidence were VII, II, and the rural area of V.
Example: This happened at the 10 voting booths in Tanquian de Escobedo, San Vicente Tancuayalab, and at the eight in Tampacan.

2. No tape on ballot boxes for gubernatorial vote:
Violation of Article 209, Section 2.
The highest incidence was in districts V, I, IV, and VI.
Example: In Ciudad Valles, this irregularity was recorded at 21 of the 31 voting booths monitored.

3. Voters not identified:
Article 218, Sections a and b.
This violation was detected at the 10 voting booths in Tanquian de Escobedo, San Vicente Tancuayalab, and Tampomolon.

4. Voters persuaded to vote for a party:
Article 96, Section d; Article 101, Section h.
The districts with the highest incidence were VII, II, I, and VI.
Example: Aurelio Serrano and Eloy Torres, voting-booth officials in Cerritos, reportedly persuaded people to vote for PRI.

5. Intimidation of voters:
Article 210, Section 4.
Districts with highest incidence: VII, V, I, VI, and III.
Example: At voting booth 13-C in Rioverde, a voting-booth official intimidated voters with a knife. He told them to vote for PRI.

6. Round-up and transportation en-masse of voters:
Article 4, Section 2.
Districts II and IV were the ones in which this irregularity was most common.
Example: Route Number 13 of one group of observers included Salinas-Villa Ramos and had 17 voting booths, to all of which there was a mass round-up and transportation.

7. Propaganda at voting booths:
Article 190; Article 210, Section 1.
Districts with highest incidence: VII, IV, II, I, and VI.
Example: Voting booth 038 in Camarones, voting booth 038 in San Francisco, voting booth 039 in Pochantla and Cerro Grande, and voting booth 012 in La Ceiba-Tampacan.

8. Inadequate training and preparation of voting-booth officials:
Article 120, Sections f and h.
Example: This violation was reported at 21 of the 31 voting booths in Ciudad Valles.

9. Citizens with voter credentials who were not on the lists of names:
Article 145, Section 1, and Article 151.
Incidence in districts VII, III, I, and VI.
It was reported at voting booth 122 in San Luis Potosi that many people were not on the list of voter names. The observers cited this irregularity very often.

10. Duplication of names on lists of voter names:
Article 145, Section 1.
The two lists of voter names at voting booth 54-B and C in San Luis Potosi represent one example.

11. Ballot boxes that were not transparent:
Article 209, Section 1.
Example: 20 of 23 ballot boxes observed by Javier Mendoza Vera in District V were not transparent.

12. A record of the opening or close of a voting booth was not drawn up:
Article 212, Section 1.
Greatest incidence in districts VII, I, and VI.
One example: Voting booth 05-B in Xilitla.

13. Indelible ink not applied to thumb:
Article 118, Section b.
Greatest incidence in districts VII, II, I, and IV.
Example: The voting booths monitored in Salinas.

14. Electioneering near voting booths:
Article 219, Section g; Article 122, Section f.
Greatest incidence in districts VII, II, I, VI, and IV.
Examples: Leaflets with the PRI logo were handed out at voting booth 3 in Santa Maria del Rio, and electioneering for PRI candidates was observed at voting booths 010, 012, and 016 in Tampacan.

15. Results of voting not posted outside voting booth:
Article 216, Section 1; Article 217, Section F.
Districts with greatest incidence: VII, I, VI, and III.
Example: Of the seven voting booths monitored in the municipal main town of Villa de Reyes, six violated this provision.

16. Presence at the voting booth of individuals who were not officials or party representatives and who gave orders to officials:
Article 219, Section 6.
Greatest incidence: districts VII, VI, I, IV, and V.
Example: At special voting booth 16 in Ciudad Valles an individual who identified himself as a PRI coordinator took over the functions of chairman.

17. Voting without credentials allowed:
Article 122, Section C; Article 123, Section C.
Example: Voting booths 153 and 116 in district I and voting booth 60 in district VI.

18. Ballots not counted:
Article 212, Section C.
Greatest incidence in districts VII, IV, I, and VI.

Examples: Voting booth 3 in Villa Juarez and 226 in San Luis Potosi.

19. Ballots for gubernatorial vote unsealed:
Article 207, Section 2-d.
Greatest incidence in districts I, VI, and III.
Examples: In the capital, special voting booth 123 and voting booths 82-C and 109.

20. Presence of judicial agents at voting booths:
Article 119-6 and Article 236.
Greatest incidence in districts I, VI, and IV.
Example: Voting booths 105-B, 105-C, 126, 124-B, 124-C, 67, 122, 123, 32-B in San Luis Potosi.

21. Shortage of election materials at voting booths:
Article 107, Section d; Article 208.
Instances occurred in districts VII, I, II, and IV.
Examples: Voting booths 178, 143-B, 112-B, 192, and in Cerritos 1, 2, 4, and 6.

22. Number of ballots altered in relation to register:
Article 123, Section B; Article 118, Section 2.
One-hundred gubernatorial ballots were missing at voting booth 193-B in San Luis Potosi.

23. Expiration date of campaigns not honored:
Article 190, Section 2 and 3.
District VII stood out.
Example: It was reported to us that at voting booth 016 in Huexco-Tampacan PRI leaders called a party assembly on the night of Friday 16 August.

24. Stuffing of ballot boxes
Article 118, Section 2.
Example: San Martin Chalchicuautla at the La Casa de Piedra School.

25. Government vehicles used by a party:
Article 41, Paragraphs 2, 3, and 5 of the Political Constitution.
Greatest incidence: District VII in Tamazunchale.
Example: Indians were driven to voting booth 010 in Tampacan in station wagons owned by the mayor's office (license plate TJ8766), and people were instructed to vote for PRI. The driver said he had received orders from the mayor. In Tancanhuitz de Santos groups of people were transported in DIF station wagons.

26. Voting booths closed at 1800 even though people were still in line to vote:
Article 124.
This irregularity was observed in the state capital and in electoral district III (main town, Rioverde).

27. Ink was not indelible (five hours):
Article 208, Section F.
Examples: At the voting booths in the communities of Vega Larga and Taman, Tamazunchale.

28. Absence of officials:
Articles 212 and 213.
This irregularity was constant in districts I, III, IV, V, and VI.
Examples: Voting booths 08-B and 08-C in district III in Laguna de San Vicente and Villa de Reyes, where two vote counters and the clerk were absent.

29. No ballots for governor's race:
Article 212.
Examples: Chichimixtitla and Xilitla.

30. Husbands allowed to tell their wives where to vote:
Article 210.
Examples: Voting booth 012 in La Ceiba in Tampacan, and basic and contiguous voting booth 016 in Huexco.

31. Transfer and replacement of ballots:
Article 35 of the constitution.
Example: At voting booth 012 in La Ceiba, husbands would take ballots from their wives and vote for them.

32. Harassment of party representatives:
Article 200.
Examples: At voting booth 001 in Tampacan the representative of the CDP was constantly assaulted by a man who said he was the mayor's legal adviser.

33. The posters with party emblems and the complete names of all the gubernatorial candidates were not put up at all voting booths.
Violation of Article 123 of the Electoral Law of San Luis Potosi.
Example: Voting booth outside the Alameda movie theater in the capital.

34. Unsealed ballot boxes:
Article 205.
Example: Villa Juarez and Ciudad del Maiz.

35. No partitions:
Article 208, Section i, and Article 210.
Example: Voting booth 6 in Cerritos.

36. Unjustified replacement of officials by IFE [Federal Electoral Institute] representatives:
Article 171.
In Tampacan, the IFE coordinator, Benjamin Posadas, entered voting booths without cause, thus jeopardizing the impartiality of his office.

37. Evasion of responsibility by voting-booth chairman:
Article 210.
Greatest incidence: electoral district VII.
Example: municipality of Tampacan.

38. Attempt to steal ballot boxes:
Article 210.
A representative of PRI at voting booth 10-B, Rioverde, in electoral district III was seen trying to steal ballot boxes. In electoral district I in San Luis Potosi, a group of individuals tried to steal the ballot boxes from voting booth 111-C and then board taxi number 159 (license plate 16-TRT).

39. Mimeographed records of voting-booth openings:
Article 118.
At all voting booths monitored.

40. Vote count showed more ballots than were counted when voting booth was installed:
Article 205.
Greatest incidence in districts III and VII.
Example: Voting booth 021 in El Naranjo, where there were more ballots than were counted when it was installed.

41. Expulsion of party representatives:
Articles 203, 204, and 219-3, Section b.
Examples: At voting booth 11 in Matehuala the representative of PAN [National Action Party] was expelled, and in Moctezuma the representative of the Democratic Coalition was kicked out.

42. Failure to install voting booths on election day:
Articles 118 and 121.
In Rioverde, voting booths 23-B and 25-B were not installed, despite which PRI claimed in its report of 9 September that it won at voting booth 23-B by 159 to 54 for the Coalition.

43. Special voting booths not installed:
Article 223.
Not a single special voting booth was installed in Villa de Reyes and throughout district IV.

44. Alteration of tally sheets:
Article 229.
The reports of the observers in districts I and VI show that at 18 of the 19 voting booths in the state capital the results do not match the results published by PRI.
Example: At voting booth 19-B, the observers reported: PRI, 229 and CDP, 256, whereas PRI reported: PRI, 0 and CDP, 0. The first report from the observers at voting booth 77-C was PRI, 79, and CDP, 140, whereas PRI reported: PRI, 79; CDP, 110.

In Xilitla, the observers reported at voting booth 13-B: 126 for PRI and 118 for CDP; the PRI report had 126 for PRI and 18 for CDP. At voting booth 10-B the observers reported 118 for PRI and 87 for CDP, whereas the PRI report had 219 for PRI and 30 for CDP.

45. Polling-place officials not impartial:
Articles 118 and 120.
Example: Tampacan, where the voting-booth chairmen kept the mayor regularly informed.

46. People allowed to vote on the basis of papers accredited by PRI:
Article 217.
Example: Voting booth 01 in Xilitla.

47. Voting in groups:
Greatest incidence in districts VII, V, and VI.
Examples: At four voting booths in Tanquian. At voting booth 012, in La Ceiba, in Tampacan, groups of 10 youths drove up in station wagons to vote, and a group of 13 Indian women were driven to voting booth 010 in Chilililla, Tampacan, in station wagon TJ 8766.

48. Voting booths where the vote went disproportionately to PRI:
Examples: At three voting booths in Xilitla the CDP's gubernatorial candidate did not receive a single vote. In San Martin Chalchicuautla the Coalition's candidate got six votes at three voting booths, compared to more than 300 per voting booth on the average for the PRI gubernatorial candidate.

49. Packages opened in the municipal committees:

At Alvaro Obregon Primary School in Villa de Reyes the electoral packages were opened and their contents were altered early on the morning of 19 August. A self-styled policeman who refused to identify himself blocked access to the committee, except for those whom he recognized as members of PRI. The contents of the packages were taken to a backyard where a bonfire could be seen.

50. The amount of time spent voting does not square with the number of votes recorded:

At 1330 at voting booth 010 in Chilililla, Tampacan, the IFE supervisor in Tampacan, Benjamin Posadas Meza, asked the chairman of the voting booth, Josue Hernandez, how many people had voted at that point. He replied that so far 253 people had voted. According to the observer, the average time that it took people to vote at this rural voting booth was 3 minutes and 6 seconds. At this voting pace it was mathematically impossible for 253 people to have voted as of 1330 hours, even if the voting booth had opened at 0800 sharp.

[Box, p VI]

We would like to express our special gratitude for the support that fraternal organizations gave us. Some of the standouts are: Service, Development, and Peace (Sedepac); the National Accord for Democracy (Acude); Liaison, Communication, and Training; the Fray Francisco de Vitoria Human Rights Center; the Miguel Agustin Pro Human Rights Center; the Pro Human Rights Group of Coahuila; the Antonio de Montesinos Center (CAM); the Busca Group; the Regional Center for Ecumenical Information (CRIE); the Cultural Center of the Union of Residents and Disaster Victims (UVyD); the School of Cultural Promoters of Monterrey; the Pueblo Team; Convergence of Civil Organizations for Democracy; the Mexican Council of Social Sciences (Comesco); the Mexican Association of the United Nations. We also express our special gratitude to all of those who were part of the Delegation of National Observers and to the San Luis Potosi community for their generous and enthusiastic response.

The following organizations endorse this report: the AMDH, the CPDH; Sedepac; Liaison, Communication, and Training; Acude; the Fray Francisco de Vitoria Human Rights Center; the Miguel Agustin Pro Human Rights Center; the Cultural Commission of the Union of Residents and Disaster Victims; the CAM; Processed Information Services (Sipro); the Pueblo Team; and the Center of Ecumenical Studies (CEE).

* Critique by PRI

92CA0012B Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish Special Supplement 26 Sep 91 pp VI-X

[Text of "Reply-Commentary by the PRI State Steering Committee of San Luis Potosi."]

[Text] The State Steering Committee (CDE) of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] has the following comments to make about the final report of the Mexican Human Rights Academy and the San Luis Potosi Human Rights Center concerning the elections of 18 August:

1. The report is partial, because the main leaders and members of the San Luis Potosi Human Rights Center are activists in the San Luis Potosi Civic Front, whose leader and founder is the former candidate of the San Luis Potosi Democratic Coalition.

2. The report has no methodological foundation.

3. The 55 voting booths covered do not represent a statistically representative sample, because they account for just 2.5 percent of the 2,200 voting booths in all.

4. The report is incomplete, since it omits significant information such as the Resolution of the State Electoral Committee To Lend Greater Reliability to the Electoral Process for the Constitutional Governor of the State of San Luis Potosi, as well as actions undertaken by the CDP [Democratic Coalition].

5. The report is biased, because it extrapolates incidents that are alleged to have taken place at one voting booth to the entire electoral process. The report does not specify the voting booths where most of the so-called "irregularities" took place, nor how or by whom they were committed.

6. Most of the reports are false, as shown by the tally sheets that were signed by the representatives of the political parties, including those of the Coalition.

7. The report of the Human Rights Academy contradicts its own principles by questioning the honesty and competence of 17,600 citizens who served as voting-booth officials and of the regular and general representatives of the political parties who took part in the 18 August election, besides the people of San Luis Potosi in general, given the unfounded charges, the manipulation of information, the biased judgments, and the misleading of public opinion.

8. From all of the above we can conclude that the report is neither legally nor morally valid.

General Comments on the Contents of the Report

1. As far as the "election campaign" is concerned, we share the view that there was no physical violence and that "the quality of the debate was lowered by the constant name-calling and disparaging remarks among the adversaries," mainly because the Coalition candidate used offensive language devoid of proposals and shrank from the public debate that the PRI candidate had proposed.

2. The report states that "in San Luis Potosi enthusiasm gave way to rancor, owing to the atmosphere that developed during the campaign." This was indeed the case with the campaign that the CDP conducted.

3. The report says that "television and most of the press were clearly partial to PRI candidates." We should mention in this regard that the mass media in San Luis Potosi are independent (except for the state TV station) and that if the PRI candidates appeared more often on them it was because they conducted more intense campaigns than their opposition.

4. The study indicates that government officials intimidated citizens or used official funds, offices, and vehicles to help PRI candidates. Yet it does not detail or document such claims. It is noteworthy that the report does not make any reference to the fact that funds from the San Luis Potosi city hall were used to help the Coalition candidate, a fact that is public knowledge. As for the use of public offices and facilities by political parties, it bears mentioning that Article 183 of the Cofipe [Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures] permits this if certain requirements are met.

5. The funds of the CDE of the Institutional Revolutionary Party come from the contributions of its Finance Committee, the National Executive Committee under Article 49 of the Cofipe, and its members and supporters.

6. The document questions voter registration and credential issuance on the basis of the study that was conducted at the request of and with financing from the San Luis Potosi Civic Front. This study, entitled "Seven Points Concerning the 1991 Electoral Register for San Luis Potosi," appears with a title page, letterhead, and logo of the Political and Social Science Department of UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico], but is actually the work of an individual, not the university, as the acting UNAM secretary general pointed out this past 29 August. The study claims, without any justification, that 258,000 residents of San Luis Potosi are neither registered to vote nor have credentials. It bears emphasizing in this connection that all nationally registered political parties played an active role in compiling the register through the National Oversight Commission. The Local Oversight Commission was established in our state and met every two weeks to oversee the entire effort. At the meeting on 6 May 1991 it released the preliminary registration figures; the minutes of the meeting state that Jorge Humberto Gomez Garcia, the PAN [National Action Party] representative on the commission, said that he was satisfied with the work that had been done, and he was seconded by the representatives of the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] and the PDM [Mexican Democratic Party].

7. The academy emphasizes that "by and large the elections were conducted in a peaceful atmosphere with an uninterrupted flow of voters," an assertion with which we agree fully.

8. Annex 1 of the academy's document states that 774 voting booths were covered in the seven federal electoral districts and that there were irregularities at 396 of them. However, the detailed information in Annex 2 specifies what happened at only 55 voting booths, 2.5 percent of the 2,200 voting booths installed. Thus, the sample is not representative.

The same Annex 2 "lists the 50 kinds of irregularities, including the law or principle violated, and gives specific examples." The analysis erroneously applies the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedures to the election for governor and even indicates that "Federal Law governed the state elections." This is completely false, because the State Electoral Law of San Luis Potosi was enforced. At the request of the Coalition and under the terms of the Resolution To Lend Greater Reliability to the Electoral Process, PRI agreed to the signing of an accord between the State Electoral College and the IFE [Federal Electoral Institute] that allowed for the installation of combined voting booths, thus giving the opposition a chance to substantially increase the number of its voting-booth representatives in both elections, the federal and the state.

The study cites four irregularities in which it does not mention the legislation or principle violated, simply because they do not exist. It cites violations of various Cofipe articles, but in many cases they are not applicable. Out of ignorance or bad faith the study confuses two distinct judicial frameworks: Cofipe and the State Electoral Law of San Luis Potosi.

9. The conclusions of the report state that "the sum total of the irregularities undermines the validity of the San Luis Potosi election." This assertion is deliberately false, because the "irregularities" mentioned never happened, nor is there any basis for the claim that they did.

10. The study says that "some election officials failed to discharge their functions impartially." There is no evidence whatsoever to back this claim. Some 17,600 citizens chosen by lot by the IFE took part as voting-booth officials in the electoral process. The Coalition gave them in writing "a vote of confidence for the performance of their functions," and it was the Coalition itself that successfully requested that the same officials serve in both elections, the federal and the state.

11. The report mentions that "one of the competing parties (PRI) is very close to the authorities who organize the elections. One of the actors, therefore, is both judge and jury." According to Cofipe, the highest federal election authority is the General Council, on which members of the Legislature and representatives of the national political parties, among others, sit. In addition, Citizen Councilmen and representatives of all political parties sit on the Local Councils. The highest authority for local elections is the State Electoral Council, on which the representatives of political parties, among others, sit. There are also the District Electoral Commissions, which are made up of citizens and representatives of the political parties. The election authorities who play the most important role in elections are the voting-booth officials, who as we have already stated are citizens who were chosen by lot and belong to all political parties or are nonpartisan, citizens chosen by lot under the arrangements indicated in the law and without any direct ties whatsoever to "the central actors" in elections.

Our party has made public its copies of the tally sheets for the election of 18 August but has gotten no response from the opposition. The opposition has its own copies (at least 80 percent of them), which should have enabled them, at the proper time, to accept the check of the tally sheets and publicly acknowledge the victory of PRI's gubernatorial candidate. Since the Coalition was represented at most of the voting booths, it could not possibly have failed to receive copies of the tally sheets for both the state and federal elections from its representatives. The fact is that the opposition refused to examine the sheets because it realized from the beginning that it had been easily defeated in the state of San Luis Potosi. There was no legal obligation to make public the tally sheets for the August elections. Nevertheless, we did so so that the public could see the election returns for governor voting booth by voting booth. The following facts arise from an analysis of these data:

1. More than 80 percent of the tally sheets are signed by representatives of the opposition parties.

2. The candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party had a two-to-one edge in the state over the Coalition's candidate: PRI, 329,292 votes versus CDP, 170,646, according to the official numbers.

3. In local electoral districts I and II, most of which are in the city of San Luis Potosi, the traditional bastion of Nava support, the Coalition candidate had an advantage of just 10,872 votes over the PRI candidate.

4. If the vote for the PRI candidate in the city of San Luis Potosi and in the urban areas of the cities of Matehuala, Rioverde, Valles, and Tamazunchale is combined, the urban vote also went to the PRI candidate. The opposition's argument notwithstanding, the urban population voted more than rural residents.

5. Incidents were reported at fewer than 6 percent of the voting booths, even though the elections of Sunday 18 August had the heaviest turnout in our history. Not a single act of violence was reported.

In Annex 1 the PRI State Steering Committee responds to each and every one of the complaints of the AMDH [Mexican Human Rights Academy] and CPDH [San Luis Potosi Human Rights Center].

Alleged Irregularities Cited in the Report and a Case by Case Response From PRI's CDE

"1. Inability to cast secret ballot:

"Violation of Article 118, Section 2; Article 122, Section C; Article 4, Section 2.

"The districts with the highest incidence were VII, II, and the rural area of V.

"Example: This happened at the 10 voting booths in Tanquian de Escobedo, San Vicente Tancuayalab, and at the 8 in Tampacan."

Response:

An analysis of all the tally sheets mentioned in the report fails to confirm this claim, nor do the tally sheets contain any note to this effect. Most of the tally sheets are signed by 108 representatives of the Coalition.

"2. No tape on ballot boxes for gubernatorial vote:

"Violation of Article 209, Section 2.

"The highest incidence was in districts V, I, IV, and VI.

"Example: In Ciudad Valles, this irregularity was recorded at 21 of the 31 voting booths monitored."

Response:

This observation cannot be deduced from an analysis of the tally sheets. The gubernatorial election was governed by the Electoral Law of San Luis Potosi, not the Cofipe regulations cited.

"3. Voters not identified:

"Article 216, Sections a and b.

"This violation was detected at the 10 voting booths in Tanquian de Escobedo, San Vicente Tancuayalab, and Tampomolon."

Response:

None of the tally sheets from the voting booths mentioned contains a single note in this regard. Most of these tally sheets are signed by the opposition.

"4. Voters persuaded to vote for a party:

"Article 96, Section d; Article 101, Section h.

"The districts with the highest incidence were VII, II, I, and VI. Example: Aurelio Serrano and Eloy Torres, voting-booth officials in Cerritos, reportedly persuaded people to vote for PRI."

Response:

The names of the individuals cited as voting-booth officials are false, as they were never chosen by lot. The real officials showed up to do their job, as stated on the corresponding tally sheets. The articles mentioned bear no relationship to the alleged irregularity.

"5. Intimidation of voters:

"Article 210, Section 4.

"Districts with highest incidence: VII, V, I, VI, and III.

"Example: At voting booth 13-C in Rioverde, a voting-booth official intimidated voters with a knife. He told them to vote for PRI."

Response:

The tally sheets for the local and federal elections do not mention any incident, and most are signed by the opposition.

"6. Round-up and transportation en-masse of voters:

"Article 4, Section 2.

"Districts II and IV were the ones in which this irregularity was most common.

"Example: Route Number 13 of one group of observers included Salinas-Villa Ramos and had 17 voting booths, to all of which there was a mass round-up and transportation."

Response:

No representative of an opposition political party mentioned the alleged irregularity on the tally sheets. The article in question says nothing about the complaint voiced.

"7. Propaganda at voting booths:

"Article 190; Article 210, Section 1.

"Districts with highest incidence: VII, IV, II, I, and VI."

Response:

The claim is misleading because it is a generalization. At no time was any protest filed at any voting booth over the alleged irregularity.

"8. Inadequate training and preparation of voting-booth officials:

"Article 120, Sections f and h.

"Example: This violation was reported at 21 of the 31 voting booths in Ciudad Valles."

Response:

The alleged irregularity cited is absurd, because the tally sheets were filled out in accordance with the law. Once again the vagueness of the report betrays its irresponsibility and lack of method.

"9. Citizens with voter credentials who were not on the lists of names:

"Article 145, Section 1, and Article 151.

"Incidence in districts VII, III, I, and VI.

"It was reported at voting booth 122 in San Luis Potosi that many people were not on the list of voter names. The observers cited this irregularity very often."

Response:

Another misleading claim, because it is vague and cites only one example, which cannot even be deduced from the tally sheet. Moreover, the Coalition won at voting booth 122.

"10. Duplication of names on lists of voter names:

"Article 145, Section 1.

"The two lists of voter names at voting booth 54-B and C in San Luis Potosi represent one example."

Response:

This false claim cannot be deduced from the contents of the tally sheets. The vote went to the Coalition at the voting booths mentioned.

"11. Ballot boxes that were not transparent:

"Article 209, Section 1.

"Example: 20 of 23 ballot boxes observed by Javier Mendoza Vera in District V were not transparent."

Response:

This assertion is untrue, as all of the ballot boxes are transparent. Moreover, no such incident is recorded on the respective tally sheets.

"12. A record of the opening or close of a voting booth was not drawn up:

"Article 212, Section 1.

"Greatest incidence in districts VII, I, and VI.

"One example: Voting booth 05-B in Xilitla."

Response:

The general observation and the single example cited are both completely false, inasmuch as PRI is in possession of the corresponding tally sheets, which are signed by the representatives of the Coalition.

"13. Indelible ink not applied to thumb:

"Article 118, Section b.

"Greatest incidence in districts VII, II, I, and IV.

"Example: The voting booths monitored in Salinas."

Response:

Twenty of the 26 tally sheets in all are signed by representatives of the Coalition, and none of them mention any incident whatsoever. There is no Section b of Article 118.

"14. Electioneering near voting booths:

"Article 219, Section g; Article 122, Section f.

"Greatest incidence in districts VII, II, I, VI, and IV.

"Examples: Leaflets with the PRI logo were handed out at voting booth 3 in Santa Maria del Rio, and electioneering for PRI candidates was observed at voting booths 010, 012, and 016 in Tampacan."

Response:

The tally sheets from the voting booths indicated do not mention any such incident and are signed by representatives of the Coalition. There is no Section G of Article 219.

"15. Results of voting not posted outside voting booth:

"Article 216, Section 1; Article 217, Section F.

"Districts with greatest incidence: VII, I, VI, and III.

"Example: Of the seven voting booths monitored in the municipal main town of Villa de Reyes, six violated this provision."

Response:

There is no report to corroborate this claim, and no complaint was ever filed in this connection. Moreover, 28 of the 31 tally sheets are signed by Coalition representatives.

"16. Presence at the voting booth of individuals who were not officials or party representatives and who gave orders to officials:

"Article 219, Section 6.

"Greatest incidence: districts VII, VI, I, IV, and V.

"Example: At special voting booth 16 in Ciudad Valles an individual who identified himself as a PRI coordinator took over the functions of chairman."

Response:

The tally sheet from the voting booth in question contains no reference to the irregularity cited. In the local election the Coalition won a majority of the votes at special voting booth 16 in Ciudad Valles.

"17. Voting without credentials allowed:

"Article 122, Section C; Article 123, Section C.

"Example: Voting booths 153 and 116 in district I and voting booth 60 in district VI."

Response:

At the voting booths mentioned the vote went in favor of the Coalition, and the tally sheets there do not mention any such incident. The content of the articles cited is not applicable.

"18. Ballots not counted:

"Article 212, Section C.

"Greatest incidence in districts VII, IV, I, and VI.

"Examples: Voting booth 3 in Villa Juarez and 22-B in San Luis Potosi."

Response:

The tally sheet from voting booth 3 in the municipality of Villa Juarez does not mention any incident, and the vote count shows a tie. The tally sheet from voting booth 22-B in district VI makes no reference to any incident whatsoever and shows the Coalition winning.

"19. Ballots for gubernatorial vote unsealed:

"Article 207, Section 2-d.

"Greatest incidence in districts I, VI, and III.

"Examples: In the capital, special voting booth 123 and voting booths 82-C and 109.

Response:

The tally sheets do not record any incident, and the opposition was present. PRI won at voting booth 123-E, while the Coalition won at the other two. The legal provision cited is not applicable to a state election.

"20. Presence of judicial agents at voting booths:

"Article 119-6 and Article 236.

"Greatest incidence in districts I, VI, and IV.

"Example: Voting booths 105-B, 105-C, 126, 124-B, 124-C, 67, 122, 123, 32-B in San Luis Potosi."

Response:

The tally sheets make no such reference, and the articles cited are not applicable.

"21. Shortage of election materials at voting booths:

"Article 107, Section d; Article 208.

"Instances occurred in districts VII, I, II, and IV.

"Examples: Voting booths 178, 143-B, 112-B, 192, and in Cerritos 1, 2, 4, and 6."

Response:

The claimed irregularity is never specified on the tally sheets. The Coalition won at the voting booths in question in San Luis Potosi, and its representatives signed the sheets. In Cerritos all of the tally sheets are signed by the opposition.

"22. Number of ballots altered in relation to register:

"Article 123, Section B; Article 118, Section 2.

"One-hundred gubernatorial ballots were missing at voting booth 193-B in San Luis Potosi."

Response:

The representative of the Coalition signed the corresponding tally sheet, which neither mentions the incident nor expresses a protest. The vote favored the Coalition at voting booth 193-B.

"23. Expiration date of campaigns not honored:

"Article 190, Section 2 and 3.

"District VII stood out.

"Example: It was reported to us that at voting booth 016 in Huexco-Tampacan PRI leaders called a party assembly on the night of Friday 16 August."

Response:

The claimed irregularity is absurd, besides which a mere report does not establish guilt.

"24. Stuffing of ballot boxes

"Article 118, Section 2.

Example: San Martin Chalchicuautla at the La Casa de Piedra School."

Response:

No challenge whatsoever was filed in connection with this alleged irregularity, and the tally sheet is signed by the opposition.

"25. Government vehicles used by a party:

"Article 41, Paragraphs 2, 3, and 5 of the Political Constitution.

"Greatest incidence: district VII in Tamazunchale.

"Example: Indians were driven to voting booth 010 in Tampacan in station wagons owned by the mayor's office (license plate TJ8766), and people were instructed to vote for PRI. The driver said he had received orders from the mayor. In Tancanhuitz de Santos groups of people were transported in DIF station wagons."

Response:

As far as voting booth "010" in Tampacan is concerned, it does not exist. The tally sheet at 10-B records neither incidents nor protests and is signed by the representative of the Coalition for the local election and by the PAN representative for the federal election.

"26. voting booths closed at 1800 even though people were still in line to vote:

"Article 124.

"This irregularity was observed in the state capital and in electoral district III (main town, Rioverde)."

Response:

The claimed irregularity is not entered on any tally sheet for the districts mentioned. Moreover, Article 124 is not applicable.

"27. Ink was not indelible:

"Article 208, Section F.

"Examples: At the voting booths in the communities of Vega Larga and Taman, Tamazunchale the ink was not indelible."

Response:

The tally sheets from the indicated voting booths do not list any irregularity and were signed by the representatives of the Coalition.

"28. Absence of officials:

"Articles 212 and 213.

"This irregularity was constant in districts I, III, IV, V, and VI.

"Examples: Voting booths 08-B and 08-C in districts III in Laguna de San Vicente and Villa de Reyes, where two vote counters and the clerk were absent."

Response:

It can be gathered from the tally sheet at voting booth 8-B that all of the officials were present and signed, as did the representative of the Coalition.

The vote favored the Coalition.

"29. No ballots for governor's race:

"Article 212.

"Examples: Chichimixtitla and Xilitla."

Response:

The tally sheet from the voting booth in question exists and is signed by the representative of the Coalition. Article 212 of the Cofipe is not applicable to the election of the governor.

"30. Husbands allowed to tell their wives where to vote:

"Article 210.

"Examples: Voting booth 012 in La Ceiba in Tampacan, and voting booth 016 in Huexco."

Response:

The corresponding tally sheets were signed by the representatives of the Coalition and do not mention any incident or protest whatsoever.

"31. Transfer and replacement of ballots:

"Article 35 of the constitution.

"Example: At voting booth 012 in La Ceiba, husbands would take ballots from their wives and vote for them."

Response:

The tally sheet from the voting booth in question does not cite any incident or protest and was signed by the representative of the Coalition.

"32. Harassment of party representatives:

"Article 200.

"Examples: At voting booth 001 in Tampacan the representative of the CDP was constantly assaulted by a man who said he was the mayor's legal adviser."

Response:

The tally sheet for the local election is signed by the representative of the opposition and does not record any protest or incident.

"33. The posters with party emblems and the complete names of all the gubernatorial candidates were not put up at all voting booths:

"Violation of Article 123 of the Electoral Law of San Luis Potosi.

"Example: Voting booth outside the Alameda movie theater in the capital."

Response:

The tally sheets give no indication of protests or incidents and are signed by the Coalition, which the vote favored.

"34. Unsealed ballot boxes:

"Article 205.

"Example: Villa Juarez and Ciudad del Maiz."

Response:

There is no record of incidents or protests on the tally sheets from the municipalities in question. Moreover, Article 205 of the Cofipe concerns the issuance and contents of the ballots.

"35. No partitions:

"Article 208, Section i, and Article 210.

"Example: Voting booth 6 in Cerritos."

Response:

The tally sheets from voting booths 6-B and 6-C in this municipality cite no incident or protest, and the signature of the representative of the Coalition is on record.

"36. Unjustified replacement of officials by IFE representatives:

"Article 171.

"In Tampacan, the IFE coordinator, Benjamin Posadas, entered voting booths without cause, thus jeopardizing the impartiality of his office."

Response:

There are no protests on the tally sheets from the voting booths in the municipality in question.

"37. Evasion of responsibility by voting-booth chairman:

"Article 210.

"Greatest incidence: electoral district VII.

"Example: municipality of Tampacan."

Response:

No incident is mentioned on the tally sheets for the respective elections; nine of 17 sheets for the federal election were signed by the representatives of the Coalition and 14 of 18 for the local election.

"38. Attempt to steal ballot boxes:

"Article 210.

"A representative of PRI at voting booth 10-B, Rioverde, in electoral district III was seen trying to steal ballot boxes. In electoral district I in San Luis Potosi, a group of individuals tried to steal the ballot boxes from voting booth 111-C and then board taxi number 159 (license plate 16-TRT)."

Response:

No incidents are recorded on the tally sheets for the federal and state elections. The article cited is not applicable. The taxi was bringing food to the voting-booth officials.

"39. Mimeographed records of voting-booth openings:

"Article 118.

"At all voting booths monitored."

Response:

The provision of law cited is not applicable.

"40. Vote count showed more ballots than were counted when voting booth was installed:

"Article 205.

"Greatest incidence in districts III and VII.

"Example: Voting booth 021 in El Naranjo, where there were more ballots than were counted when it was installed."

Response:

The corresponding tally sheet records the contrary, and the article indicated is not applicable.

"41. Expulsion of party representatives:

"Articles 203, 204, and 219-3, Section b.

"Examples: At voting booth 11 in Matehuala the representative of PAN was expelled, and in Moctezuma the representative of the Democratic Coalition was kicked out."

Response:

The tally sheet indicates the contrary, inasmuch as it is signed by the representatives of PAN (we are talking here about voting booth 11). As for district IV, the tally sheets do not support the claim.

"42. Failure to install voting booths on election day:

"Articles 118 and 121.

"In Rioverde, voting booths 23-B and 25-B were not installed, despite which PRI claimed in its report of 9 September that it won at voting booth 23-B by 159 to 54 for the Coalition."

Response:

The content of the tally sheets from the voting booths mentioned suggests the opposite. Consequently, we can conclude that the individuals who are telling this lie are unscrupulous criminals. Moreover, the articles cited are not applicable.

"43. Special voting booths not installed:

"Article 223.

"Not a single special voting booth was installed in Villa de Reyes and throughout district IV."

Response:

The claim of this irregularity is ridiculous because the election authority never decided to set up a special voting booth in the municipality of Villa de Reyes. Those making the claim are thus totally ignorant. Two

special voting booths were set up in district IV, one in Ciudad del Maiz and the other in Cerritos.

"44. Alteration of tally sheets:

"Article 229.

"The reports of the observers in districts I and VI show that at 18 of the 19 voting booths in the state capital the results do not match the results published by PRI.

"Example: At voting booth 19-B, the observers reported: PRI, 229 and CDP, 256, whereas PRI reported: PRI, 0 and CDP, 0. The first report from the observers at voting booth 77-C was PRI, 79, and CDP, 140, whereas PRI reported: PRI, 79; CDP, 110.

"In Xilitla, the observers reported at voting booth 13-B: 126 for PRI and 118 for CDP; the PRI report had 126 for PRI and 18 for CDP. At voting booth 10-B the observers reported 118 for PRI and 87 for CDP, whereas the PRI report had 219 for PRI and 30 for CDP."

Response:

The returns from voting booth 19-B for the local election were annulled by the District Commission because the tally sheet was not signed.

There was a recording error at voting booth 77-C (VI), inasmuch as the tally sheet shows that the Coalition got 140 votes.

At voting booth 17-B in Xilitla the PRI data are backed by the tally sheet, which is signed by the CDP representative.

At voting booth 10-B in Xilitla the data reported by the observers are inaccurate, according to the tally sheets for the local and federal elections.

"45. Polling-place officials not impartial:

"Articles 118 and 120.

"Example: Tampacan, where the voting-booth chairmen kept the mayor regularly informed."

Response:

The representatives of the political parties had no complaints in this regard and signed the tally sheets.

"46. People allowed to vote on the basis of papers accredited by PRI:

"Article 217.

"Example: Voting booth 01 in Xilitla."

Response:

No party representative voiced any protest whatsoever to corroborate the absurd claim of this irregularity.

"47. The amount of time spent voting does not square with the number of votes recorded:

"At 1330 at voting booth 010 in Chilililla, Tampacan, the IFE supervisor in Tampacan, Benjamin Posadas Meza, asked the chairman of the voting booth, Josue Hernandez, how many people had voted at that point. He replied that so far 253 people had voted. According to the observer, the average time that it took people to vote at this rural voting booth was 3 minutes and 6 seconds. At this voting pace it was mathematically impossible for 253 people to have voted as of 1330, even if the voting booth had opened at 0800 sharp."

Response:

The tally sheet from the voting booth in question indicates the contrary. This proves that the observer does not possess the moral standing to voice an opinion on an event that he did not witness, inasmuch as the voting-booth officials compiled the tally sheet at 1830 owing to the established deadline. Moreover, the information on the tally sheet has greater validity than a mere comment questioning the credibility and honesty of the voting-booth officials.

"47. Voting in groups:

"Greatest incidence in districts VII, V, and VI.

"Examples: At four voting booths in Tanquian. At voting booth 012, in La Ceiba, in Tampacan, groups of 10 youths drove up in station wagons to vote, and a group of 13 Indian women were driven to voting booth 010 in Chilililla, Tampacan, in station wagon TJ 8766.

Response:

This claim is misleading because the law does not say how voters are supposed to arrive at the booths.

"49. Voting booths where the vote went disproportionately to PRI:

"Examples: At three voting booths in Xilitla the CDP's gubernatorial candidate did not receive a single vote. In San Martin Chalchicuautla the Coalition's candidate got six votes at three voting booths, compared to more than 300 per voting booth on the average for the PRI gubernatorial candidate."

Response:

The claim is vague because it does not say where the disproportion lies. Neither incidents nor protests were reported; the vote was similar in both elections; 19 of 26 tally sheets are signed by the Coalition representatives, and we would clarify that the average vote at 26 voting booths was 172, not 300 as is tendentiously claimed.

"49. Packages opened in the municipal committees:

"At Alvaro Obregon Primary School in Villa de Reyes the electoral packages were opened and their contents were altered early on the morning of 19 August. A self-styled policeman who refused to identify himself blocked access to the committee, except for those whom he recognized as

members of PRI. The contents of the packages were taken to a backyard where a bonfire could be seen."

Response:

This claim is false and preposterous. No political party filed any challenge whatsoever. The packages for the local and federal elections were separated at the school in question so that they could be sent to the corresponding offices. The officials and the representatives of the political parties were present.

* CDP Endorses Survey

92CA0012C Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish Special Supplement 26 Sep 91 pp X-XI

[Text of "Reply-Commentary by the San Luis Potosi Democratic Coalition."]

[Text] Mr. Carlos Payan Velver
Managing Editor of LA JORNADA

In response to your invitation, which we received through the San Luis Potosi Human Rights Center, to analyze the document "The 1991 San Luis Potosi Electoral Process; Between Illegality and Immorality," drafted by the AMDH [Mexican Human Rights Academy] and the center in question, as well as voice an opinion on the recent gubernatorial election in the state of San Luis Potosi, the San Luis Potosi Democratic Coalition submits the following comments on the irregularities that took place during the election:

1. The information in our possession essentially concurs with the contents of the document. The electoral process in San Luis Potosi was riddled with defects and irregularities that helped the State-party candidate.

We would like to emphasize certain points that we regard as fundamental:

2. The Electoral Register

The electoral register that was used for the 18 August election was doctored and was a decisive element in the fraud that occurred during the recent balloting. An analysis of the register by personnel from the Political and Social Sciences Department of UNAM [National Autonomous University of Mexico] reveals a series of irregularities that prevented citizens from exercising their right to vote and enabled others to cast illegal ballots.

This study concludes that:

a) The ruling party inflated its vote total by no fewer than 96,000 by way of false credentials (approximately 11.5 percent of the rolls).

b) The percentage of citizens with credentials is not 93, as the Federal Register of Voters stated; rather, only 76 percent of the voting-age population were issued credentials (in light of the official results, this would mean 100,000 fewer votes for the opposition).

c) The register was compiled in a clearly partial manner on the basis of political criteria.

Moreover, the voter rolls that were used on election day were found to have been selectively "trimmed" (there is proof of this). As a result, no fewer than 42,000 votes were taken from the Coalition, because at the last moment these individuals were not to be found in the electoral register and thus could not vote even though they had their voter credentials.

Other irregularities aside, the alteration of the register had a combined effect of some 233,000 fraudulent votes.

In San Luis Potosi the electoral register was decisive in reducing the wide margin of victory of Dr. Salvador Nava Martinez over the ruling-party candidate.

3. The Election Campaign

The mass media were partial to the ruling-party candidate and failed to perform their duty to report the news accurately so that the citizenry could form realistic opinions on events.

We agree in particular that Channel 9 became a partisan TV station.

Public funds were used to support the ruling party. We support an investigation into the source of these funds, as the document calls for.

Government officials, especially mayors and ejido authorities, intimidated citizens.

4. Election Day

There was fraud on election day, owing to the great many vote-related irregularities and crimes that resulted in the illegitimate, illegal, and widely rejected victory of the ruling-party candidate for governor.

The available documentation is sufficient evidence of this. It mentions the major electoral shortcomings (there are many others), as an amazing number of irregularities prevented the process from being "clean and transparent" as PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] itself claims.

a) Seventy percent of the tally sheets in our possession contain serious irregularities, which taken together would render any gubernatorial election illegal. Some of these irregularities are: a discrepancy between the number of votes in the ballot boxes and those recorded on the tally sheet; an abnormal excess of ballots compared to the voter rolls; a vote count that exceeds the legal limit per booth; a discrepancy between the number of votes cast and the ballots used; inexplicable discrepancies in vote totals (Annex 2, types and examples or irregularities, numbers 22, 24, 40, 44, 47, and 49 in the document).

b) Absence of voting-booth installation and closure records and tally sheets (number 29).

c) Shortage of ballots; missing and extra ballots (numbers 12, 19, 21, and 29).

d) Mimeographed tally sheets without seals or headings, which could be easily reproduced, which circulated without any oversight, and which led to major irregularities, such as: duplication of sheets with different results, forged signatures of Coalition representatives, the use of other papers to record the data, alteration of the sheets themselves, among others (numbers 12, 18, 19, 21, 29, 39, 40).

e) Late openings and early closings at a great many voting booths (number 26).

f) Manipulating and threatening workers into voting for and promoting votes for PRI. Vote-monitoring brigades throughout the state (numbers 1, 4, 5, 6, 14, 16, 20, 35, 48).

g) Direct interference in and control of the electoral process by ejido council members, judges, councilmen, officials, and even mayors (numbers 16 and 20).

h) PRI representatives persuading people to vote for PRI, thus brazenly violating the right to cast a free, secret ballot. PRI vote promoters pressuring voters, taxis and official vehicles affecting the vote (numbers 1, 4, 6, 14, 16, 25, 46, 48).

i) PRI propaganda on days prior to the vote, and voting booths set up on election day. Poll-taking (Gallup-Televisa) at the very places where the booths were installed, with voters asked about their political preferences. Special edition of a newspaper announcing that the ruling-party candidate was ahead a few hours before the vote was over, an edition that was deliberately circulated near voting booths (numbers 7 and 14).

These are some of the major irregularities that were observed during this election. There are, however, many others in our files that typify the extent of the fraud perpetrated against the people of San Luis Potosi (for example, more than half of the Coalition's representatives at the voting booths were expelled).

In summary, we would say that the fraud consisted primarily of:

—Substantial alteration of the votes cast in urban areas (districts I and II in particular), thus considerably narrowing the actual gap between the Democratic Coalition and PRI.

—Numerous instances of cheating, particularly in the rural areas of the state.

The statewide analysis of the vote reveals such activities, clearly showing how vote fraud took place mainly in the rural areas of the state, where the irregularities were most common (Table 1 of the document, districts III, IV, V, and VII). This study shows that the vote was skewed and distinctly abnormal. It proves that the vote was anomalous and, consequently, logically and statistically invalid. It is no accident that where the most vote-related irregularities and defects appeared the vote for PRI was blatantly overwhelming, whereas in the areas in which the law was most closely observed and the incidents were the fewest, the vote went to Dr. Nava.

The study is based on data from the tally sheets that are in our possession.

5. Conclusions

The sum total of irregularities and the various types thereof enable us to conclude that the electoral process was fraudulent. A fundamental right of the Mexican people, of the people of San Luis Potosi, was violated, the right to vote, as enshrined in the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the vote being the instrument through which the people elect those who are to govern them, thus exercising their sovereignty.

The election authorities were partial and helped the State party. They conducted themselves as judge and jury, which calls the outcome of the elections into question from the start.

We call on the people of San Luis Potosi and the people of Mexico to join in a great civic and political struggle to defend their political rights, to amend the federal and state electoral laws so that they provide for election bodies made up of representatives of civilian society and the political parties, laws that do not allow public funds to be used to support any political party and that punish public servants who do so, laws under which the mass media report the news objectively and accurately and under which the inviolability of the right to vote is insured throughout the electoral process, because this right is the cornerstone of the political rights of Mexicans and of democracy.

We are fighting for a society that is based on the constitutional principles of respect for the dignity of the individual, freedom, democracy, and respect for the vote, a society that can bring to power the genuine representatives of the people's interests so that they can establish democracy as a way of life and form of government and so that social justice will become a reality for all Mexicans because millions of our fellow countrymen are deprived of it today.

On behalf of the San Luis Potosi Democratic Coalition, Patricia Palacios de Nava Xavier Boelsterl y Urrutia Gonzalo Siller Martinez

Costa Rica

Vargas Resigns Over Disagreement With President

PA0411211891 Paris AFP in Spanish 1334 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] San Jose, 4 Nov (AFP)—It was reported 4 November that Thelmo Vargas, Costa Rican finance minister and the architect of the government's neoliberal policies, was removed on 3 November when President Rafael Angel Calderon accepted his resignation.

Calderon designated Rodolfo Mendez Mata as new finance minister. Deputy Rolando Lacle will replace him in the post of presidency minister.

Calderon thus put an end to a serious crisis in his cabinet, which broke out last week when Vargas publicly questioned an economic change of course made by the president.

During the first 18 months of the government, Vargas implemented a severe program of structural adjustments based on the mass dismissal of public employees and the privatization of state-owned enterprises, all of which provoked street demonstrations and an impressive drop in the Christian Democratic government's popularity.

Ambassador to Nicaragua Resigns Under Pressure

PA0511032491 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2024 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] San Jose, 4 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon announced on 4 November that Carlos Aguilar, Costa Rican ambassador to Nicaragua, resigned effective 1 November.

The resignation occurred after a group of opposition Social Democratic deputies called for an investigation of the diplomat, who is facing criminal proceedings in Costa Rica and has been accused of "administrative irregularities" in the embassy in Nicaragua.

He is also criticized for maintaining a close friendship with Nicaraguan Army Commander Humberto Ortega, a situation which, according to the legislators, affects the good relations between the governments of the two countries.

The Costa Rican Government recently admitted that senior U.S. State Department officials had suggested Aguilar's removal because of his relationship with Ortega and other Sandinist leaders.

Although Calderon initially refused to remove the diplomat and supported the investigation of his conduct, the legal proceedings, involving an alleged swindle, led to the resignation.

The presidential house announced that Aguilar will be replaced by Eduardo Mora, the charge d'affaires and consul general in Managua.

El Salvador

Koeningsberg on Guerrilla Use of Missiles

PA0511043791 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Report by Maria Teresa Fajardo]

[Text] Colonel Manfredo Koeningsberg, chief of staff of the Salvadoran Air Force, said on 4 November that the use of missiles by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, guerrillas against military aircraft has not reduced the Armed Forces' presence in war-torn areas. The officer said that 15 days ago, Air Force helicopters were able to evade missiles in Chalatenango Department.

[Begin recording] [Koeningsberg] We have enough experience to evade the missiles and to continue to operate efficiently. Approximately 15 days ago, the rebels seized some towns in southern Chalatenango and fired missiles at helicopters but were unable to hit them. Either they have lost their aim or we have enough skill to evade them.

[Reporter] Colonel, how many members does the Paratroopers Battalion have?

[Koeningsberg] The Paratroopers Battalion forms part of the Armed Forces' strategic reserve. It has 900 men, a sufficient number. They are duly trained to be deployed anywhere in the country whenever problems require their presence.

[Reporter] What level of participation do they currently have in the conflict?

[Koeningsberg] We are always operating at a nationwide level, in various zones, to be ready to act at the most difficult moments with helicopters and airplanes.

[Reporter] There is talk of the delivery of new military supplies for the Air Force. Is this correct?

[Koeningsberg] I have no knowledge or information about it.

[Reporter] There is talk in the U.S. Congress about a reduction in military aid. Do you think the Air Force would be affected by such a reduction?

[Koeningsberg] I cannot comment because the high command handles such matters.

[Reporter] It was said that the use of missiles by the guerrillas was going to reduce Armed Forces action, especially by the Air Force. Has that situation been overcome?

[Koeningsberg] Yes, it was overcome from the beginning. No matter how sophisticated their weapons, they will never come out ahead of us because we are convinced we are right and that we have the support of the people. Even if they use missiles, the people down below have helped our pilots when they have been hit. The

people have helped our pilots to survive and have protected them from the terrorists. [end recording]

Koeningsberg said the Air Force maintains control over all the counterinsurgency operations at a nationwide level in support of the various ground actions currently being conducted. He made these statements after presiding over a simple ceremony to honor a team of paratroopers who won two first places and one third place in events in the sixth parachuting competition of Central American armies held in Guatemala.

Assembly Approves Reforms to Judicial System

PA0311132091 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The Legislative Assembly of El Salvador has ratified a number of reforms to the judicial system, most of them as a result of the peace negotiations between the government and the guerrilla groups. According to various party leaders, these reforms are essential for the construction of a new society. The Legislative Assembly approved modifications to more than 30 articles of the Constitution, including the system to elect the National Judiciary Council [CNJ] members, which recently provoked a controversy in the country. The reforms should have been ratified last week, but the session was suspended due to the discussions.

When the meeting was resumed on 1 November, Legislative Assembly President Roberto Angulo said: This issue has been opposed by an important group of our society—yet we have all decided, in a truly patriotic attitude, to participate in the ratification.

CNJ members will be elected by the Legislative Assembly with the qualified vote of two-thirds of the Assembly's 84 deputies. Groups opposing this, claim that the issue could be politicized. According to the approved reforms, the CNJ is an independent agency whose role will be to propose candidates for the posts of Supreme Court of Justice magistrates, higher court magistrates, and judges. It will also be responsible for the organization and operation of the Judicial Training School in order to guarantee an improvement in the professional molding of judges and other officials in the system.

The Supreme Court of Justice magistrates will be elected by the Legislative Assembly for a nine-year period. The magistrates can be reelected, and a third of them will be renewed every 3 years [sentence as heard]. They can also be dismissed by the Legislative Assembly—for specific reasons that should be previously established by the law. The reforms include provisions to guarantee that the judges will be protected so that they may carry out their work in a free and impartial way, without undue influence. The reforms provide the means to guarantee a fair remuneration and a lifestyle that concurs with the responsibility of their positions.

Another article says that the term for the suspension of constitutional guarantees in the country, meaning a state of siege, will not exceed 30 days. The term may be extended once it ends—through a new decree, and provided that the reasons that motivated it still prevail—yet the guarantees will be immediately restored if the new decree is not issued.

The Legislative Assembly approved on 11 September constitutional reforms on human rights. On 25 September it approved reforms to the electoral system.

Guatemala

* Opposition Members Kidnapped, Tortured, Killed

92CA0016A Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 3 Oct 91 p 5

[Text] Middle-level leaders of the political opposition have been harassed in this country. One was shot to death, while another was kidnapped, mistreated, and interrogated in a house.

The first incident occurred in the locality of Tiquisate, in the department of Escuintla, 125 km south of the capital. Unidentified individuals assassinated Pedro Menendez, the local leader of the National Union of the Center (UCN), by firing five bullets into his back.

This crime occurred on Nicaragua Street in that locality, after Menendez had left a meeting at the local council hall in his capacity as municipal chief of police, Mayor Mario Carrera revealed in reporting the incident.

Meanwhile, unidentified individuals kidnapped Hilda Ileana de Jesus Barreda Montenegro, the community leader of Christian Democracy, in the capital city. They took her to a remote residence, where they harassed and interrogated her for several hours.

The Christian Democracy leader was then left at the gates of the Red Cross headquarters in Zone One, where she received medical treatment, according to a party representative who described the details of what happened to Mrs. Barreda.

Argentina

New Commander in Chief of Army Installed

PY0411225691 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2209 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Nov (TELAM)—The brand new commander in chief of the Army, Division General Martin Balza stated: "Army members are no one's enemy, and even less so an enemy of comrades in arms with whom I have shared a life in the military and memorable events."

Balza made these remarks when he was installed by Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez. He added: "The Army must not have rancor against anyone because it is not a Christian sentiment. Understanding and justice must exist for everyone."

Air Force Chief of Staff To Retain Post

PY0411162091 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1428 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Nov (NA)—Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez stated today that Brigadier Jose Julia will retain his post as chief of staff of the Air Force. He added that "changes will affect only those who have asked for retirement."

Gonzalez said this upon leaving the Stella Maris church, where he and President Carlos Menem attended a mass in memory of those who fell for the fatherland.

Brazil

Economy Minister Marques Discusses Tax Reform

PY0411232691 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Nov 91 p 51

[Interview with Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira by O GLOBO reporter Cecilia Costa; place and date not given]

[Text] [Costa] Mr. Marques, before we begin discussing the chaotic national situation, I would like to discuss an extremely short-term problem: the Table of Income Tax [IR] deductions and the fiscal reform that is becoming a heavier burden for the middle class. We were told that President Collor is extremely irritated by the increase of the fiscal burden, which apparently reaches 40 percent in the case of people who receive 600,000 cruzeiros in salary. He also, supposedly, has requested that the table be reviewed. Was the increase in tax deductions for midlevel salaries planned and intentional?

[Marques] No, it was not planned or intentional. In a certain way, the projections based on the November econometric simulation or assumptions surprised me too. In October, we worked with the concept of medium fiscal deductions that were in force. As we can see in the table I have in my hands, when we were studying the fiscal reform with tax exemptions for salaries up to 120,000 cruzeiros, the deductions were supposed to decrease in the case of middle-class salaries. Our table was entirely progressive and favored more those who received low level and midlevel salaries, and deducted more from the high salaries. The problem is that in the current system there are exemption peaks in February, August, and November. As you can see in this new table with projections based on the November econometric assumptions, these distortions appeared when we decided that salaries up to 190,000 cruzeiros would be exempt from taxes. It is one of these exemption peaks. On average, the tax deduction burden would decrease. These peaks will cease to exist with the indexation of the IR deduction table by the UFIR [Reference Fiscal Unit]. We must also remember that the fiscal reform will only be implemented in January 1992 and that the projections based on the November econometric simulation or assumptions make no pragmatic sense. Anyway, we are willing to implement changes to prevent peaks, thus ensuring that the middle class is not badly affected in any month.

[Costa] Therefore, the increase was not intentional, and the idea was to reduce, on average, the tax burden of wage earners. However, since it was demonstrated that the tax burden may be increased, what will be done now?

[Marques] We did not foresee the distortions because we were concerned with long-term effects. We already have the UFIR, which will protect taxpayers because the table automatically will be indexed, avoiding peaks and lows in tax exemptions and deductions. We are, nonetheless, willing to improve the table to a maximum. The government is always open to constructive criticism. We could even create—why not?—a mid-range IR for the middle class, that is, a third tax range. Wellisch [Fernando Wellisch, national financial secretary] is already studying what to do, and on 4 November we will take a proposal correcting the distortions to the president of the Republic.

[Costa] Minister Marques, regarding tax reform, the criticism being made of the economic team is that it has good long-range plans to correct the imbalances of the economy—in addition to the reform, we can mention the Big Amendment Project—but in the short range it does not seem to control the hysteria of the economic agents. Is the short-range government policy only to maintain high interest rates and allow free prices? Will that be enough to stop inflation?

[Marques] We are not only thinking of stopping inflation with a monetary policy and high interest rates. We are also implementing a harsh fiscal policy to reduce expenditures. This is our short-range policy. The money aggregates behaved very well in October, during which the monetary expansion was small. Comparisons are being made between our policy and the one implemented by former Economy Minister Mailson da Nobrega late in 1989. The times are completely different. At that time Da Nobrega had a deficit of 7 to 8 percent of the gross domestic product [GDP]. The government was obligated to issue bonds all the time to pay employees. Among other things, the money

was being expanded for the monetization of the debt. And prices exploded. Now the price increases—speculative and corrective—will not be supported by monetary expansion and the fiscal policy. And it is not true that we are not keeping control over the economy. Early in the week we gave proof of rationality by withdrawing from the gold market. We demonstrated that we were not willing to subsidize the flight of capital, stockpiling, and unnecesary expenditures abroad. We are not going to hand over gold to bandits. The market prices will behave according to the law of supply and demand.

[Costa] The drop in gold and dollar prices late in the week already showed the rationality of the government decision, and the market was normalized after all. But it is easier for economists to understand this situation. The nonexpert population did not understand very well what happened with gold and the dollar, believing that prices may explode again at any time. The TR [referential interest rate] initially fixed at 30 percent contributed to the panic even further ... Everyone is expecting an inflation rate of that level for this month ...

[Marques] There was a great deal of exaggeration in relation to the inflation rate expected for October and there is also an exaggeration in the inflation rate expected for November. The November inflation rate should be above 20 percent but it should not reach 30 percent. The TR is a projection for financial profits and should not be looked at as an inflation indicator. Speculators are always exploiting the idea of a black September, black October, or black November. There is no reason for panic. The economy has its problems, especially the fiscal problem. But they are administrative problems. Our internal debt in relation to the GDP is not big. Also, our foreign debt in relation to the GDP is not as big as in other Latin American countries. The operational deficit is around 2 percent of the GDP. By correcting the fiscal mistakes and pushing agriculture to stop the inflation in food prices, we can come out of the impasse.

[Costa] The problem is that the tax reform and agriculture policy are long-range plans. What economic agents fear is a price explosion in an extremely short period of time. If not a black November, at least a black December or January. Don't you fear there will be hyperinflation by December?

[Marques] The truth is that we are trying to correct the economic imbalance with structural measures. In the short term we are implementing classic temporary measures such as the monetary and fiscal policy. The government has operated within the context of a social market economy. I believe that curbing inflation will be enough. Until December, there is no imbalance that could lead to hyperinflation. The Treasury has a surplus. The monetary policy, as I have already explained, is under control. We have already secured a trade surplus higher than the one obtained in October because high interest rates are prompting exporters to secure favorable exchange rates. We have received encouraging reports on the movement of export permits. In order to appease the financial market somewhat, we are launching new Treasury bonds tied to the IGP-M [General Market Price Index]. These bonds are a safe way to protect investments from inflation.

[Costa] But talking about the IGP-M, some Sao Paulo businessmen believe that since the government tied NTN [National Treasury Bonds] to this index supplied by the Getulio Vargas Foundation, it has adopted it to index the economy. Information that there will be a pre-established 90-day CDB [bank deposit certificate] tied to the IGP-M strengthened the idea of a reindexation even more so...

[Marques] It is not a matter of reindexation, but only of adopting a sound indicator for the financial market in order to assure investors. The IGP-M is better than the TR, an element of the monetary policy. The market needs some less-vulnerable parameters than inflation. Salaries also need some kind of protection.

[Costa] Therefore, does this mean that the monetary and fiscal policy, the use of the IGP-M to index financial assets, is going to hold back hyperinflation? Does this mean you are not even thinking about new price controls? Why did the government even release the price of bread, which has been controlled since the sixties? Is this a sign that the government is willing to give the economy a liberal treatment, that is, to free prices until the economy can bear the shock no longer and return to normal?

[Marques] There is no liberal shock treatment. As President Fernando Collor rightly said, there is the shock of truth. I would say there is a liberal trend, in the sense that we are willing to release all prices. If we believe in a market economy, we know that free prices will not bring about hyperinflation. There is no repressed inflation anymore. The only inflation that exists is the one currently in the market. We want full openness regarding prices. This is why we pulled out of the gold market. This is why we freed the price of bread. Bread is a symbol, a living proof of our liberal trend. We want prices to fluctuate according to supply and demand, and we will only control the prices of oligopolistic sectors. We will only intervene to correct distortions in the market—cartel actions, for example. I believe that prices are even starting to drop. There are no more reasons to increase them significantly, except for the purpose of speculating, even because people do not have money. We are not going to confiscate the peoples' money. But I believe we are going to come up with good results.

Main Changes To Income Tax Regulations

PY0411164091 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Nov 91 Economy Section p 3

[Excerpts] These are the main changes to be implemented in the income tax regulations: [passage omitted]

Corporations

1. Micro Enterprises will continue to be exempt from paying income tax. The basis for figuring the income tax to be paid by partners or owners of Micro Enterprises will be reduced from 10 percent to 8 percent.

2. Taxes will be paid on so-called fringe benefits [preceding two words in English]. Those who receive fringe benefits must declare them.

3. The expenses of administrative employees, partners, or shareholders will have a limit for tax deduction purposes.

4. The payment of tax installments that were to have become due in 1993 will be brought forward to 1992.

5. The additional income tax on the remittance of profits abroad is eliminated.

6. The rate of remittance of profits abroad (currently 25 percent) is limited to the income tax rate in force in the country where the capital originates.

7. The tax that is deducted directly from the net profits of enterprises will be gradually eliminated as of the 1993 fiscal year.

8. As a way of reducing tax evasion, the administrators of financial institutions who open accounts with fake CPF [Individual Taxpayers Register] or CGC [General Taxpayers Register], will be charged with tax evasion.

Financial Area

1. The rates of income tax directly deducted from time deposit investment will be commensurate with the length of the investment period.

2. Deductions made directly from operations with gold and from time deposit investment will be standardized.

3. Tax on time deposit investments will be deducted on the day the investment installment is redeemed.

5. [number as published] Foreign investors, except foreign investment funds and corporations, will have the same rights and obligations regarding taxes on financial investment as Brazilian investors.

Cruzeiro Devalued 4 Nov by 1.15 Percent

PY0511115891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The cruzeiro was devalued yesterday by 1.15 percent compared to the commercial dollar rate, which now stands at 662.65 cruzeiros. The dollar on the parallel market is being traded at 830 cruzeiros. This is lower than on 1 November. Experts believe that this drop shows that the market is seeking to balance itself following the sudden increases registered last week.

Economy Minister To Negotiate $2 Billion Loan

PY0111122891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] The negotiations with the IMF will be resumed on 4 November in Washington.

Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira is optimistic and confident that the agreement with the IMF will be signed before Christmas. The agreement involves a $2 billion loan for Brazil.

Provisional Interest Rates Set at 30 Percent

PY0111154891 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The provisional referential interest rate for November was set at 30 percent. Today, the Central Bank set at 30 percent the provisional TR [Referential Interest Rate] for the month of November. [passage omitted]

Fuel Prices Increase '10th Time This Year'

PY0111233291 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Summary] Fuels are 20 percent more expensive. This new increase, the 10th this year, increases the 1991 cumulative adjustment to 300 percent.

In the states of Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, and Sergipe, gasoline now costs 330 cruzeiros per liter; alcohol costs 248 cruzeiros per liter; and diesel fuel oil costs 175 cruzeiros per liter.

In the other states, gasoline now costs 326 cruzeiros per liter; alcohol costs 245 cruzeiros per liter; and diesel fuel oil costs 173 cruzeiros per liter.

A 13 kg cooking gas bottle costs 2,652 cruzeiros throughout the country.

Investment Plan Totaling $79.6 Billion Approved

PY0411130491 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Nov 91 First Section p 5

[Text] President Fernando Collor approved yesterday the Infrastructure Ministry's revised multi-annual plan that foresees an investment of $79.6 billion by 1995. Until last September this ministry had only invested $3.9 billion. In 1992 it intends to invest $12.2 billion.

Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana said that this increase, which will be intensified as of 1993, "sets an example for private enterprise." Santana believes that the current recession is psychological and results from a collective depression. He added that with a bit of creativity it is possible to awaken the country's investment potential.

Seventy percent of the $79.6 billion will come from the income of public enterprises. The remainder will be

earmarked by the Treasury for highways and the Xingo Hydroelectric Dam in Alagoas. [as published]

The largest investments, $39 billion, will be earmarked for the energy industry, followed by communications ($20.7 billion); transportation ($12.2 billion); mines and metallurgy ($7.4 billion).

Within the energy industry, the largest investment ($20.4 billion) will be made in the oil industry, seeking to increase production to 1 million barrels per day by 1995. A total of $18.7 billion will be invested in the electricity industry.

Resources are also earmarked for the installation of 4.4 million new telephone lines throughout the country by 1995; the launching of a communications satellite; and the installation of a cellular telephone system.

* Mercosur Views Measures Against Product Piracy

92SM0049B Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 8 Oct 91 p 11

[Article by Eugenia Lopes]

[Text] Brasilia—The four Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay) are beginning to take the first steps—in the area of intellectual property—looking toward the creation of multilateral mechanisms to combat piracy in the marketing of manufactured products.

For this reason, the president of the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), Paulo Afonso Pereira, has scheduled a meeting for tomorrow with representatives of the National Confederation of Industry (CNI), the National Confederation of Commerce (CNC), the Brazilian Association of Exporters, and the Uruguayan Ministry of Industry and Commerce to draft a treaty for joint action by the Mercosur countries with respect to trademarks and patents.

"We shall begin our talks with the aim of seeking an accord among the countries of the Southern Cone with respect to the protection of Brazilian products and vice versa," the INPI president said. It is anticipated that the special minister to Mercosur, Carlos Chiarelli, will also take part in the conference.

Representatives of Mercosur and also of Spain and Mexico will be conferring during the entire week at the Ministry of Justice to discuss and analyze the trends in legislation concerning trademarks and patents on the South American continent. The conference—which is sponsored by the WIPO [World Intellectual Property Organization], an organ of the United Nations, and by the INPI—plans to analyze the principal changes made during 1991 in intellectual property laws in Latin America (specifically, in Chile and Mexico) and in similar legislation that is pending in Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, and Venezuela.

According to Ernesto Rubio, WIPO's director for Latin America, a growing number of Latin American countries are amending their laws as a consequence of the new policy that the governments of Latin America are adopting. Rubio believes that their move toward free enterprise, the opening of their market to the world, and their quest for competitiveness "are inspiring the changes in the laws."

Jaime Palma, director of Chile's intellectual property office, believes that the trend toward changes in the laws concerning trademarks and patents in the countries of South America is moving in the same direction.

Rezek, Financiers To Negotiate Iranian Contracts

PY0411122691 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Report by Mirian Oliveira]

[Text] Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek begins a three-day visit to Iran today. He will then leave for Egypt, where he will remain until 9 November. He is accompanied by 20 businessmen. They will participate in negotiations for the construction of a hydroelectric plant; sugar mills; a subway; and 12 towns to house 5 million Iranians. Before leaving for Iran, Rezek reported that Brazilian companies could participate to the tune of $12 billion in Iran. He said:

[Begin recording] Iran has a five-year plan starting in the first half of the 1990's which coincides with the duration of President Collor's term of office. The Iranian Government will spend between $120 and $130 billion to finance this plan. Iran believes that Brazil might be involved in at least 10 percent of this plan, which would represent approximately $12 billion if the matter is handled sensibly and intelligently. [end recording]

Rezek will arrive in Egypt on 7 November. He will stay there until 9 November. He will discuss Brazilian participation in a $500 million railroad construction project.

Paraguay Seeks Agricultural Export Corridor

PY0411230291 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Report by Oscar Lobo from Florianopolis]

[Text] Paraguayans want to export their agricultural products through Santa Catarina State.

A delegation of Paraguayan businessmen and government officials, headed by Industry and Commerce Minister Ubaldo Scavone, arrived in Florianopolis today.

The Paraguayans will discuss a preliminary exchange with Santa Catarina State officials and businessmen with a view toward Mercosur, Common Market of the South.

According to Paraguayan delegation members, Paraguay is particularly interested in Santa Catarina's support for establishing a corridor for Paraguayan agricultural products, especially soybeans.

The corridor would go from Santa Catarina State's western border, in Sao Miguel D'Oeste and Dionisio Cerqueira, to the port of Sao Francisco do Sul, 200 km north of the capital of Santa Catarina State.

Multinational Embargo Imposed on Space Mission

PY0411015491 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Nov 91 Science and Technology Section p 10

[Text] The industrialized countries have reportedly imposed an embargo on the Brazilian Complete Space Mission (MECB) because they fear that the materials comprising the satellite launch vehicle (VLS), such as the control sensor, could be used for military purposes. SPACE NEWS magazine (published on 14 October) reported that during an October meeting of the International Astronautics Federation in Canada, Jayme Boscov, head of the VLS project, said that the embargo was unjustifiable and that, as a result of the embargo, construction of the Brazilian rocket will conclude in 1995.

In 1990 the government signed an agreement with the French enterprise Arianespace for the launch of two communications satellites. In exchange for this, the government expected France's cooperation in developing the VSL and training with the Viking engines that are used with the Ariane rockets. According to Boscov: "The agreement angered the defenders of missile controls in the United States. This made the French Government step back."

The Brazilian Government then decided to accept the Pegasus rocket manufactured by Orbital Science Corporation. But the U.S. rocket was used on only one occasion when a military communications satellite was launched for NASA in April 1990. On that occasion the launcher lost contact with the control base for several seconds, during which time the satellite altered course and remained at a lower orbit than that previously planned.

In the Pegasus system, a rocket is placed under the wing of a B-52 bomber, launching it at an altitude of 10,000 meters, as if it was a missile. This makes the first stage of the launch less expensive and, consequently, lowers costs.

If everything succeeds, the rocket will put the 115 kg satellite into orbit at an altitude of 750 km. The satellite's main task will be to analyze the gases that scientists deem responsible for the heating of the planet.

* Joint Research Project With USSR on Ozone

92SM0049E Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Oct 91 p 18

[Text] Sao Paulo—Soviet scientists will arrive in Brazil next week to study the magnetic anomaly in the South Atlantic that is located 400 km off the Brazilian coast at the latitude of the state of Sao Paulo. Satellites of the USSR's space program have discovered that this anomaly is causing a hole in the ozone layer, permitting the entry of ultraviolet rays from the sun.

Scientists from the Lebedev Institute of Physics, the Polar Institute [as published] of Geophysics, and Moscow University—in cooperation with the Julio de Mesquita Filho Institute of Meteorological Research of Sao Paulo State University (UNESP) in Bauru—will launch four stratospheric balloons carrying equipment designed to measure the intensity of the rays that reach the earth.

The project coordinator, Andre Ngan Bui Van, a naturalized French citizen of Vietnamese extraction who works at UNESP, said that the data collected by the equipment—which will attain an altitude of 15,000 meters—will be received via radio and analyzed at the Institute of Meteorological Research and Institute of Physics of UNESP.

This research will cost the Soviets and Brazilians approximately $1 million. According to Bui Van, the detectors of cosmic rays will for the first time establish with precision the extent of the destruction of the ozone layer at a location 400 km off the Brazilian coast.

"These rays can cause skin cancer and even blindness, depending on their intensity," he said.

* Accord With PRC on Oxides Research

92SM0049D Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 4 Oct 91 p 16

[Article by Sergio Danilo]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—The Mineral Technology Center (Cetem) of Rio de Janeiro and the Institute for the Study and Utilization of Minerals and Rare-Earth Metals of the People's Republic of China will sign—on 7 October in Peking—an accord providing for joint research and the transfer of technology for the production of oxides and rare-earth metals in Brazil. This information was provided by Professor Roberto Vilas Boas, director of Cetem, who left for China yesterday to sign the protocol.

Vilas Boas—who is regarded as one of the foremost Brazilian experts in "new materials" technology—said that Brazil and China will produce commercial catalysts to serve as the basis of the initial pilot plant for the production of materials and the final product at Cetem.

The Chinese are prepared to transfer all the mineral technology needed for the production of "first generation" catalysts, using the rare earths discovered in Brazil as the raw materials source.

Whereas present and future catalysts that are manufactured using various types of ceramics and noble metals cost an average of $200 per unit, the equipment—already manufactured—that China is offering Cetem will cost $50 per unit.

Under the terms of the accord to be signed in Peking, Cetem will be responsible for developing the Asian catalyst in Brazil and for assembling the prototypes, and subsequently for conducting public bidding with a view to transferring to private enterprise the rights to mass-produce the final product.

The target market, says Professor Vilas Boas, will be the automotive market, consisting of the 12 million motor vehicles currently in operation in Brazil plus the annual domestic production of 1 million vehicles.

Under the terms of the accord, Cetem will test the Chinese product and—after it is adapted to Brazilian technology—collect a royalty for the industrial use of the final equipment.

Another of Cetem's presentations in China will be a study on models and norms for advanced materials whose mineral component must meet the specifications prescribed for their use. Vilas Boas will present to the Academy of Sciences of China a report stating the Brazilian position on this question together with an analysis of the decisions made by the Wamas [expansion not given] group on this subject.

According to Vilas Boas, the Group of Seven (G-7) of the world's richest countries have signed a protocol of mutual collaboration with the countries of the Third World. The Wamas group—sponsored by the developed nations—wishes to broaden the technical studies of high-technology products, as in the case of the rare earths.

Reserves

The Brazilian rare-earth reserves—which officially are limited to the monazite ore available in marine and river alluvial deposits—are estimated to total 30,000 tons, according to a survey by the National Department of Mineral Production (DNPM). These deposits are distributed among the states of Minas Gerais (with 55 percent of the total), Rio de Janeiro (32 percent), Espirito Santo (10 percent), and Bahia (3 percent).

According to the DNPM, China has the world's largest reserves (measured and described) of rare earth oxides (OTR)—a total of 30 million tons—with an annual production of approximately 20,000 tons. Other significant deposits of rare-earth oxides are located in the United States (6.5 million tons) and India (1.9 million tons).

[Box, p 16]

A State Enterprise Is the Only Producer

Sao Paulo (By Costabile Nicoletta)—In Brazil the only producer of rare-earth compounds is the state enterprise Nuclemon [Nuclebras Monazite and Associated Elements, Ltd.]. Mineral Chemicals Ltd., a subsidiary of Nuclear Industries of Brasil, Inc. (the former Nuclebras [Brazilian Nuclear Corporations, Inc.]). Its processing plant is located in Sao Paulo, where it sends the monazite sands that it has prepared and treated at mines located in Rio de Janeiro, Espirito Santo, and Bahia.

The monazite sands were formerly smuggled aboard foreign ships, which deposited them in their holds on grounds that they served as ballast. Today it is known that the products derived from rare earths are used in ultra-high tech industries such as the aerospace and nuclear industries.

At the present time Nuclemon is producing rare-earth chloride, an item of low added value. It plans, however, to build a new, more modern plant for the production of more sophisticated rare-earth compounds, and is negotiating to form a possible partnership with private companies that have already shown an interest in the project.

Rare-earth chloride is the raw material for the production of misch metal (a metallic alloy employed in metal-working and cigarette-lighter flints). Studies are being carried out in Japan on possible applications of rare-earth compounds in products used as superconductors of energy.

Nuclemon currently processes 200 tons of zirconite and 120 tons of monazite per month to make its rare-earth compounds. Its sales are approximately $900,000 per month.

• Causes of Technological Backwardness Probed

92SM0049C Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 8 Oct 91 p 11

[Article by Ana Carolina Silveira]

[Text] Campinas—The CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] that is investigating the causes of Brazil's technological backwardness yesterday visited four Campinas research institutions to familiarize themselves with the projects these institutions are carrying out, and to estimate the investment required to continue them. Since it began its work last May, the CPI has already received 106 written statements from researchers and technical experts in the area of science and technology, and is scheduled to present—no later than next December—a report containing a diagnosis of the Brazilian situation and proposals for improvement.

The National Synchrotron Light Laboratory (LNLS) was the first site visited. Lacking a definitive infrastructure, the LNLS is still occupying a 2,500-square meter shed that is not large enough for the erection and operation of

the circular electron accelerator, which has a diameter of 27 meters. Cylon Goncalves da Silva, director of the laboratory, explains that completion of the circular accelerator had been scheduled for 1992 but has now been postponed until 1994.

The 1992 budget for the LNLS had been estimated at 5 billion cruzeiros—the amount needed to cover construction of its definitive headquarters on an area of 380,000 square meters. "The budget appropriation for the entire National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), however, is 1 billion cruzeiros, with only 400 million going to the LNLS," the director said.

The laboratory staff delivered to the members of Congress a document showing the low salaries paid during the past year, and the poor prospects for continuing the work at the present site. In the opinion of the CPI's legislative reporter, Irma Passoni (PT [Workers Party]-Sao Paulo), who took delivery of the document, "the principal cause of Brazil's technological backwardness is the complete lack of integration among educators, researchers, and manufacturers who develop products."

The committee also visited the Technology Development Company (Codetec), the Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.] Center for Research and Development, and the Informatics Technology Center (CTI). Today the members of Congress will inspect the Aerospace Technology Center and Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company], both of which are located in Sao Jose dos Campos.

Quartz Powder

The CPI chairman, Mario Covas (PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]-Sao Paulo), declared that the committee's objective is not to examine the performance of each institution nor even to look into any accusations concerning the diversion of funds or inflated pricing in contracts. Covas insisted that the CPI will not investigate the allegation concerning the importation of quartz powder by the physicist Rogerio Cezar de Cerqueira Leite, the president of Codetec, at a price 15 times higher than the market price.

The physicist did not meet with the committee members at Codetec, alleging health problems. Codetec's managing director, Jose Carlos Gerez, denied that the company had been involved in the purchase. "Codetec does not work with quartz," he said. "The project was Cerqueira Leite's doing, and he is by coincidence the president of the company." Former CNPq president Crodowaldo Pavan, who was present yesterday in the hall of the University Council of Unicamp [Campinas State University]—the last stop on the CPI's itinerary—insisted a few hours later that Codetec would have a project for the specific utilization of the quartz powder.

"Codetec had the capability of developing such a project, and the entire process is centered there," declared Pavan, who headed the CNPq at the time the purchase was made. The CNPq transferred $6.9 million to enable Codetec to import 23.6 tons of quartz powder, which is used in producing optical fibers. Inter Trade—the enterprise that served as middleman in the transaction—had paid $436,600 for the product. The Federal Police are investigating the case.

* Nationalist Manifesto Scores Government Policy

92SM0049A Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Oct 91 p 5

[Text] Brasilia—Approximately 150 nationalist members of Congress yesterday issued a manifesto in which they charge that the Federal Government—by privatizing state enterprises—is dismantling the Brazilian state and selling the nation's heritage. The manifesto was read from the Chamber of Deputies podium by Deputy Miguel Arraes (PSB [Brazilian Socialist Party]-Pernambuco). The deputies who signed the document, however, have differences of opinion concerning certain points in the document. The manifesto was signed not only by representatives of the Left but also by deputies of the Center such as Joao Teixeira (PFL [Liberal Front Party]-Mato Grosso) and Paulo Marinho (PSC [Social Christian Party]-Maranhao).

Immediately following Arraes's presentation, the leader of the PT [Workers Party], Jose Genoino (Sao Paulo), explained that his party supported the manifesto but did not agree with everything in it. According to Deputy Genoino, the PT is opposed to the privatization of state enterprises when weak currencies are used in their purchase, such as the Agrarian Debt Instruments (TDA). For Usiminas [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills, Inc.] he advocates public management, but with little linkage to the government.

According to the nationalists' document, the privatization of Usiminas "is merely one event in a strategy that follows an international model that has already been imposed even on neighboring countries."

In a reference to Argentina, the nationalists argue that its situation has deteriorated because of the "scrapping" of its industry and the "liquidation" of its national currency. "This 'dollarization' means acceptance of the status of a viceroyalty in replacement of the status of a sovereign state that has the power to issue its own currency," the document states.

In their manifesto, the nationalist deputies argue that the armed forces have been put on the defensive, "obliged" to demand their pay and to watch "powerlessly" as "essential" activities such as research in various fields are halted.

According to the deputies who advocate nationalism, the government lacks any objectives other than "demolition at any price without providing anything to replace what has been demolished." "It proposes to privatize iron and steel mills but has no iron and steel policy for the nation," the document says. "It grants extensions on, or

increases, the debt of the sugar industry, but it has no policy for an activity that covers vast areas of land and employs hundreds of millions of workers."

Chile

Exiles Return Home Under Democratic Government

PY0511013091 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Twenty-thousand Chileans who once lived in exile for political reasons have returned to Chile during the current democratic government. This is stated in a report released by Jaime Esponda, director of the National Office for the Return of Chileans in Exile [ONR], who expects approximately 40,000 Chileans out of the 180,000 who left the country for political reasons to return to Chile during the current government's term. This was his conclusion after a recent tour abroad to six countries: the USSR, Cuba, the Netherlands, Canada, Spain, and Venezuela. Esponda visited the Chilean communities that formed in those countries after leaving Chile for political differences with the authoritarian regime.

Esponda said 20,000 political exiles already have returned to Chile since the government change, half of whom received help from the ONR. He said the budget allotted by the government for ONR for 1992 will amount to $250,000, which only will pay for the office's operational costs. When the office was created by law on 20 August 1990, it was promised external resources. Esponda said that out of the $5 million promised by international humanitarian organizations and European countries, only a fifth has arrived at ONR. This money has been used for emergency aid programs.

The ONR director stressed his office's efforts to solve the labor and housing problems of the returning exiles, although, he said, they have no privileges. Esponda also announced a program that will be implemented next year with the support of the German Government. It consists of credits for Chileans who return from Germany to begin small businesses, besides receiving a salary equivalent to 60 percent of what they earned in Germany before returning to the country.

Esponda said that the Chileans who most want to return to Chile are those living in Cuba and the USSR because of the serious economic problems in those countries. This is contrary to the situation of Chilean residents in Sweden and Canada, who have very high standards of living.

Korean Ambassador on Illegal Korean Immigrants

PY0511015791 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Korean Ambassador to Chile Mun Chang-hwa has expressed his wish that the problem affecting illegal Korean immigrants in Chile will soon be solved. The ambassador discussed this subject with Interior Under Secretary Belisario Velasco.

The Chilean Government does not think there is any persecution against any Korean citizen in Chile. However, the situation of 160 Korean immigrants who lack legal documents to remain in the country is also unacceptable, Velasco said. Besides, many of these Koreans, who cannot be found, do not respect their labor, social welfare, and tax obligations. For the time being, they have 120 days to legalize their situation, which the government is willing to study case by case.

After the Korean ambassador's meeting with Velasco, Mun appealed to the good relations between the two countries to solve the problem.

[Begin recording] [Mun] I would like to thank him for his attention to this matter. Considering the friendly relations between our two countries, I hope this problem will be solved with a friendly spirit. Thank you.

[Unidentified reporter] What about the case of the illegal immigrants, ambassador?

[Mun] That depends on your government. [end recording]

European Banks Grant Loan to Telephone Company

PY0111204491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2027 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Summary] Santiago, 29 Oct (EFE)—The Chilean Telephone Company [CTC] has confirmed that a group of 15 European banks have agreed to grant it a $118 million loan to finance part of the company's expansion program scheduled for 1992-93. The CTC intends to install 1 million new lines in the next five years, as well as complete the digital system.

Socialist Party Legitimizes Factions

PY0411201691 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] The Socialist Party, PS, has legitimized factions that exist in its bosom and regulated actions for the period preceding the party congress and elections.

PS Chairman Jorge Arrate commented on the topic when he reported the most important conclusions reached during the National Organizational Conference held this weekend. He explained that to strengthen party institutionalization and prevent factions from prevailing over the party itself, the presence of such factions has been acknowledged.

[Begin Arrate recording] The party factions will become fully recognized and publicly acknowledged, and will have the right to express their opinion and to be coordinated in the period preceding the party congress and elections. These factions can present candidates, hold national meetings, and propose political platforms,

which are an indispensable requirement for the creation and legitimization of a faction. These factions will thus be based on ideas and political opinions and not on people or groups. [end recording]

It was decided during the conference that the Central Committee will be elected from a single list composed of all candidates. It also has been determined that the list will have a special section for regional representatives. In the conference, a new executive vice presidency to discuss women's problems was created.

PDC Meeting Considers Updating Ideology

PY0411174691 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Spanish 2330 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Participants of the fourth doctrinal congress of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, decided to implement a solidarity economy that will enable the country to eliminate poverty before the 21st century.

More than 2,000 PDC delegates from various parts of the country exhaustively analyzed for four days the idea of updating the party's ideology. [passage omitted]

They decided that the PDC will begin a process of constitutional reforms to correct the excesses of the presidential system of government established in the 1980 Constitution.

The PDC supports a solidarity economy in which the market is the main source of resources and the state guarantees common welfare. The PDC delegates promised to fight poverty and to eliminate it before the end of the century.

In the opinion of younger PDC members, this congress is unprecedented because no such meeting had been held in the last 25 years. [passage omitted]

MIR To Participate in Municipal Elections

PY0211214491 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] The Central Committee of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR, has said that, for the upcoming municipal elections, it will register 10 or 15 candidates as independents in order to foment and spread its own politics.

In a communique, MIR said these candidates will receive active and broad popular and social support, envisioning an integral development and an equitable economy.

In some municipalities, MIR will register popular candidates under Communist Party tickets on the basis of conserving MIR's own identity and achieving agreements on national and municipal policies, the communique notes.

Paraguay

President Seeks Dialogue To Solve Bus Conflict

PY0411142091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Nov 91 p 5

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez yesterday called for "a just solution to the conflict between bus drivers and bus owners." He called for the continuation of negotiations. Justice and Labor Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche said that bus services yesterday were "quite normal." He added that the bus drivers' demand is just and that the bus owners are obliged to obey the law.

As he left Government House, President Rodriguez said: "We want a just solution for the two parties. This is what I wish." He recalled that there is a conciliation committee which should try to solve the problem. He added: "The ministers of justice and labor (Hugo Estigarribia) and of public works and communications (Porfirio Pereira Ruiz Diaz) should also make an effort."

Rodriguez left Government House at 1340. He was asked about the clash near Congress. He said that he was not aware of it. He added: "I believe the interior minister (Orlando Machuca Vargas) should be better able to report on what happened. Therefore, I ask you to excuse me."

Justice and Labor Minister Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche said that the bus drivers strike was discussed during the cabinet meeting called by President Rodriguez. Estigarribia said that the strike "did not paralyze any activities" and that "the bus service is quite normal."

Estigarribia said that he advocates agreement between the two parties and emphasized that the bus drivers demands are just.

Asked if the police repression yesterday was discussed during the cabinet meeting, Estigarribia said: "No one talked about it. If anything happened it was the result of excesses or because of an unwanted violent situation. We want to emphasize that the bus drivers have the right to strike but they must also understand that the people have the right to work and the right to use public transportation."

He said: "These situations create concern. We are concerned and there should be no talk about failure or victory. It is a strike resulting from demands which must be studied."

He added that he has instructions to continue to seek a solution to this conflict. He said: "The goal is conciliation between the parties and above all an agreement on the mechanism for work and pay."

He concluded by saying: "The people who use buses are the ones directly affected by the strike and we are also affected indirectly because this situation creates concern. The people can rest assure that the government understands the bus drivers demands and that we will continue to seek a solution."

Repression of Demonstrations Viewed

PY0411150091

[Editorial Report] Asuncion HOY in Spanish on 2 November on page 2 carries a 200-word report stating that on the night of 1 November the National Workers Federation, CNT, and the United Labor Federation, CUT, delivered a declaration to this newspaper in which they "blame public transportation management for the strike and accuse legislators of trying to politically profit from the demonstration."

The same publication, also on page 2, carries a 200-word report on the communique issued by the "Constitution for All" movement in which they "express solidarity with the transportation workers and journalists who were brutally repressed. Moreover, they voice their admiration for the brave citizenry who defended democracy by exercising their genuine rights."

The same issue of HOY, on page 10, carries a 450-word report on the formal protest Asuncion Mayor Carlos Filizzola addressed to General Francisco Sanchez, Asuncion chief of police, "demanding an investigation into the incidents that took place yesterday involving policemen who reacted arbitrarily to the municipal traffic policemen who were checking the drivers licenses of the drivers of various public transportation buses."

Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on 2 November, page 5, carries a 100-word report quoting Public Works and Communications Minister General Porfirio Pereira Ruiz Diaz as saying yesterday that "the government will never reject dialogue as a means to solve the problems of any labor sector." He also explained that practically all the transportation workers' demands had been accepted and that they were merely asked to wait a maximum of four or five months for their demands to be honored.

The same issue, on page 6, carries a 100-word article stating that Febrerista Revolutionary Party, PRF, president Euclides Acevedo commented that "in addition to not being institutionalized, the role of the Police Forces is not well defined and that the legislators, instead of worrying so much about the division of the state branches should concentrate on determining the specific role of the police and the Armed Forces and defining their concept of public order." He also added that this repression shows that there are still those who dream of the past because "strikes are normal within a democracy."

On this same page a 200-word report states that Colorado Party, ANR, vice president Blas N. Riquelme "yesterday admitted that the incidents caused by social problems could have a negative impact on the electoral aspirations of the ANR." Riquelme added that "the ANR will always support the workers and that it seeks to solve the strikers' problems as soon as possible."

A 300-word report on the same page states that the declaration approved during a special session on 1 November of the Chamber of Deputies, "condemns unnecessary violence by the Police Force against workers and journalists as well as the police repression against a group of deputies who was trying to investigate the attacks against the strikers." The article adds that the incidents were also marked by an obvious attempt to promote the image of some politicians, such as that of the Asuncion mayor who was accompanied by several of his aids and candidates for the constituent assembly of his Asuncion for All movement.

The same ABC COLOR issue on page 8 carries a 200-word report on the support by the Popular Democratic Party, PDP, for the transportation workers' demands and requests "the dismissal of Justice and Labor Minister Hugo Estigarribia." The PDP communique also "denounces the brutal police repression against striking workers which resulted in many people being wounded or arrested without a court order." "The PDP maintains that those who ordered the repression, which also affected legislators and journalists, should be brought to trial."

Peru

Arrest Orders for Two Former Ministers Revoked

PY0111213691 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 26 Oct 91 p A6

[Excerpts] The Supreme Court yesterday revoked the orders of arrest against Efrain Obregoso and Roberto Angeles Lazo, former APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] party ministers of education and agriculture, respectively, who are being processed for alleged malfeasance in office and illegal use of MUC [Standardized Exchange Market] dollars.

The Supreme Court, however, confirmed the order of arrest issued against former Transportation Minister Oswaldo Moran. [passage omitted]

Supreme Court Judges Federico Peralta, Carlos Espinoza Villanueva, and Jose Angulo Martinez—who are hearing this case—decided to revoke the order of arrest against Obregoso and Angeles after their defense lawyers pointed out several procedural mistakes in the investigation carried out first by the National Comptrollers' Office and then by the national Congress. [passage omitted]

Tocache, Tananta Residents Denounce Police Abuse

PY0111193891

[Editorial Report] Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish on 23 October publishes on pages 13-15 an article in which residents from Tocache and Tananta townships in the Upper Huallaga denounced the constant abuse committed by general police and security police forces. Representatives from both townships sent notes to the Interior Ministry and the Tocache military chief in which they requested the withdrawal of national police

forces from the area. Residents from Challuayacu Village reported that the police do not respect women, children, or the elderly.

One of the notes signed by the Challuayacu lieutenant governor and the mayor charged that police constantly broke doors and raped women, and that they were drunk or stoned. It also was reported that they looted houses and attacked the residents with their weapons. To conceal their criminal actions, these police officers arrested people on charges of being terrorists. In view of all the abuses perpetrated by police, people deemed the presence of nearly 100 policemen in the area unnecessary.

Besides the robberies, lootings, rapes, and mistreatment affecting Tocache, police also were charged with being involved in drug trafficking. During an antidrug operation in April, the Upper Huallaga special prosecutor and general police based in Santa Lucia surprised several security police officers in possession of a valuable shipment of cocaine paste. When they became aware of the prosecutor's presence, the police first tried to kidnap him and, failing that, they then tried to kill him but the timely intervention of two DEA helicopters prevented the incident.

In their note, Tocache residents charged police with corruption and that, as a result, people refused to respect them.

General police members headquartered in Tocache disguised themselves as security police personnel to commit the abuses. The note also noted that personnel from the Tocache police station and the security police broke into the villages to carry out all types of illegal actions, including their cooperation with and protection of drug trafficking and terrorism. The link between Tocache police and drug traffickers and terrorists was demonstrated by the several police actions that could not solve criminal actions by drug traffickers and subversives.

The note stated that the general police command is aware of all these criminal actions, adding that it protected the police officers who carried out these abuses.

Police Head Discharges 32 in Public Ceremony

PY0111191491 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 26 Oct 91 p A10

[Excerpts] For the second time this month, 32 police members, including 17 officers, were discharged from the force in a public ceremony in the Walter Rosales Leon police unit on block No. 4 of Aramburu Avenue.

The ceremony was presided over by National Police Director General Adolfo Cuba y Escobedo, and other high-ranking police officers, chiefs, and subordinates.

Thirty other police subordinates were promoted in the same ceremony for "distinguished service" while doing their duty. [passage omitted]

Gen. Cuba y Escobedo said in his speech that bad policemen will continue to be investigated and discharged from the institution as punishment for their bad behavior. [passage omitted]

Through an internal police resolution, eight police officers, including commanders, majors, and captains, were expelled from the force for being involved in the scandal of selling promotion exams in the Superior Police College. [passage omitted]

Command Accuses Soldiers of Rights Violations

PA0111204991 Paris AFP in Spanish 2159 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Text] Lima, 31 Oct (AFP)—The authorities confirmed today that, for the first time, the Peruvian Armed Forces' Joint Command turned over to military justice one Army officer and five subordinates who have been charged with killing 14 peasants, raping women, and stealing. The incident occurred in Santa Barbara, a town in the Huancavelinca Andean region, three months ago.

According to the report, the charges are being filed in light of a new policy by President Alberto Fujimori to punish human rights violations as part of the struggle against terrorism.

Senator Enrique Bernales, president of the United Nations [Human] Rights Commission, [title as received] released a Defense Ministry report on this matter. He stressed that "this is first time in four years of parliamentary investigations on terrorism that the Armed Forces have reported, clearly and frankly, on a criminal act committed by military personnel." Bernales added, however, that the soldiers should be tried by a civilian court because their crimes, which are duly described in the penal code, were against civilians.

The report on the killing states that following investigations conducted by the joint command, "it has been confirmed that abuses were committed against 14 peasants of Santa Barbara who were accused of being subversives. For this reason, the command will court martial Lieutenant Javier Vendezo and five subordinates charged with the homicide of 14 peasants, the theft of cattle and money, and the rape of women.

The officer also has been accused of abuse of authority for ordering acts that violate military regulations and the law. This accusation was made by troops under his command and the council for the investigations of officers is currently handling this matter.

The document, which the Senate received on 28 October, explained that the victims include two women who were raped. The military patrol had accused them of being "subversive criminals."

In addition, according to unconfirmed reports that have not been denied, at least 25 members of self-defense groups and 50 guerrillas were killed in bloody clashes when 500 rebels tried to seize several towns on 30

October. These towns included Payoni, Satipo Province, approximately 400 km east of Lima.

Police also reported that a terrorist group seized the vehicle belonging to Interior Deputy Minister David Mejia Galindo on 30 October. The rebels intercepted the vehicle in an avenue in El Callao and wounded the driver, whose name was not disclosed.

Furthermore, two employees of the Buenaventura Mining Center in Huancavelica, 360 km in southeast of Lima, were killed when the vehicle they were riding in exploded as it rode over a terrorist mine. Another report adds that a soldier and two members of the self-defense groups were killed in clashes in Ayacucho, in the Andean southeast.

Shining Path Said Running Schools in Lima Slums

PY0111181491 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 25 Oct 91 p A7

[Text] Members of Army Intelligence yesterday told EXPRESO that they are following up the activities of Shining Path indoctrination groups in the extremely poor areas surrounding Lima.

The military men, who asked that their names not be printed, said that these Shining Path cells conceal their ideological work and allegedly teach school-age children in the shanty towns, seeking to use them in future terrorist activities.

This task has been facilitated by the state of abandonment in which the children and their parents find themselves in recently occupied plots which still lack public school services.

The military men recalled that when the Army entered the Raucana shantytown, where it is currently offering civic services, it found that most of the children thought that the president of the Republic was "Comrade Gonzalo" [Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman], that the Peruvian flag was the Shining Path's red cloth, and that the country was submerged "in a popular liberation war."

It is a fact: the Shining Path is surreptitiously maintaining indoctrination schools for children in the poverty belt on the outskirts of Lima. They resort to any method to indoctrinate children and to use them in their activities.

For years, the terrorists have been working day and night in these popular schools, indoctrinating children who will then join their cadres, or commit murders under the cover of these schools.

The terrorists instill into the children greed, hatred toward the forces of order, and convince them that only the path marked by "President" Abimael Guzman will help them overcome misery.

This is the way many children on the outskirts of Lima are learning to read and write. They are memorizing the terrorist catalog to become its future bloody executors.

These schools teach in subtle ways that bad is good if one wants to become equal to the rich. They give free puppet shows for children who never went to the movies. They show them a sweetened way to death.

According to the intelligence officer consulted by this newspaper, this Shining Path increase should be stopped following the death of Jorge Mayta [a 9-year old boy who was killed after stepping on mine on 24 October when used as a decoy by the Shining Path] and of so many other victims of terrible crimes (such as the murder of Melissa Alfaro [a CAMBIO magazine journalist who was recently killed when she opened a letter bomb in her office]).

"We apparently are not taking any action, but we are preparing a great response," said an intelligence officer, who assured us that the Shining Path schools will be swept away. He said that they are acting strategically to hit in the most critical moment "to defeat terrorism."

Said To Control Prison

PA0411153491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2328 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Madrid, 2 November (NOTIMEX)—According to a television report broadcast here today, approximately 500 members of Peru's "Shining Path" have complete control of a section of the Canto Grande prison in Peru.

A team of reporters from Spain's state-owned television filmed the report inside the prison. The report shows that the authorities no longer control the prison and that the Shining Path's law prevails.

The prison is considered a "high security" facility and was designed to house 500 prisoners. According to the television report, the prison now has approximately 2,000 inmates. Approximately 80 percent of the prisoners have tuberculosis and eat food that is virtually decaying.

The report states that the section of the prison under Shining Path control has its own kitchen that is fully stocked to provide prisoners with all they need. In this section, inmates make their own shoes and medicine and have medical facilities, including an operating room.

There are slogans and photographs of Abimael Guzman, the group's leader, who is also known as "Comrade Gonzalo," painted on the walls.

The report shows uniformed men and women taking part in military exercises with torches and red flags that display the hammer and sickle. The men and women also sing partisan songs and shout group slogans in chorus.

'Alleged Subversives' Kill 16 at Lima Apartment

PA0411170091 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Report by Cesar Lengua]

[Excerpt] Last night, alleged subversives killed 16 people, including an 8-year-old boy. Two other people have serious wounds and have been admitted to the 2 May Hospital.

Police sources have reported that approximately seven hooded individuals, led by a woman, entered Apartment Building 840 on Jiron Guanta Street in Barrios Altos, Lima. A social gathering was taking place in Apartment 101. The terrorists ordered the people present to leave the living room and to go to the patio, where they were riddled with bullets.

The authorities have found no pamphlets or leaflets to identify the attackers. Police sources have explained that the alleged subversive elements used sophisticated weapons to commit this horrible crime.

Some victims have been identified. They are: Oscar and Maximo Leon, brothers who organized the party; Carlos y Manuel Rios; Nelly Rubina; Jorge Castro; Javier Leon; Alejandro Rosales Saavedra; and Javier Rios, a minor. Most of them worked as delivery people for the (Donoclio) company.

It has been reported that after the shooting, the attackers left in the direction of Canto Grande in two vehicles, one a Cherokee Jeep belonging to the Foreign Ministry. The other vehicle was a Mitsubishi belonging to the Presidency. The two vehicles were stolen on 2 November. [passage omitted]

Explosions Reported at Public Buildings, Banks

PA0511044491 Paris AFP in Spanish 0405 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Lima, 4 Nov (AFP)—The police reported that on the night of 4 November, terrorist groups used explosives to attack government offices and banks in Lima, injuring four people and causing heavy damage.

At least six dynamite attacks in various Lima neighborhoods were reported by the police authorities, who attributed the actions to the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

It was reported that four persons who were passing near the sites of the attacks were injured in the face by shards of broken glass.

One of the buildings that suffered serious damage was that of the state water company in the central Brena district. Its doors and all its windows were destroyed. Nearby houses within a 100-meter radius were also affected.

Three other explosions shook a shopping center in Lince District, in southern Lima. A police source said that four automobiles were damaged and windows were broken.

The targets of the attacks also included the headquarters of the Banking and Insurance Superintendency, 300 meters from the Presidential Palace.

Reportage on Police, Rebel Actions 18 Oct-2 Nov

PA0311041191

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on rebel activities in Peru monitored by Panama Bureau between 18 October and 2 November.

Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 25 October carries a three-minute report that approximately 500 National Police and Armed Forces troops have launched a joint operation against terrorists in Los Olivos, near km 19 of the Pan-American Highway. The operation began at midnight on 24 October. A rebel identified as "El Puma," who reportedly was the second in command of Luis Chito Rios, was killed. The Armed Forces and police units seized abundant military materiel, grenades, guns, ammunition, terrorist propaganda, and documents belonging to Marcial Marrufo Hernandez, Domingo Nunez Valdivia, and Jose Machuca. More than 30 alleged subversives were arrested in the operation.

Paris AFP in Spanish at 1838 GMT on 27 October carries a 180-word report that Peruvian journalist Cirilo Ore Enriquez, correspondent of the Lima newspaper EXPRESO, was killed on 27 October by an alleged terrorist group in Ayacucho. According to police reports, he was shot three times as he was leaving his home. The victim, who was also a journalist of the magazine "HUARI-LIBERTADORES" was taken to a hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival. Ore's death increases to 32 the number of journalists who have been killed in the armed struggle that began 11 years ago. Also, five Shining Path guerrillas were killed on 26 October by a peasant defense patrol in Saruiccocha, La Mar province, Ayacucho Department.

Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0242 GMT on 27 October carries a 150-word item citing a police report that at least 10 civilian government officials have been killed by Shining Path rebels over the past two days in Valle del Rio Mantaro in the Peruvian central mountain range. The victims included community leaders and municipal inspectors. Also, in Jauja near Matahuasi, terrorists staged bomb attacks against a municipal building and damaged three vehicles and an Agrarian Bank Branch. Since the Shining Path took up arms in May of 1980, at least 24,000 persons have been killed in the political violence.

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 0910 GMT on 29 October carries a 200-word report that political violence has flared up over the past couple of days, resulting in the death of 65 rebels, 2 soldiers, and 18 civilians in Peru.

According to the report, 50 members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement were killed and 30 captured, following a clash with Army troops in San Martin Department. The Army sustained two dead and two wounded in the fighting that took place on the highway linking Bellavista and Saposoa, 750 km northeast of Lima. Also, in a two-hour clash, members of a peasant defense patrol killed 15 Shining Path rebels who tried to raid Cangari community in Huanta Province, Ayacucho Department. The peasant defense patrol sustained six casualties.

Paris AFP in Spanish at 0153 GMT carries a 100-word report that three persons were killed in an attack staged by the Maoist Shining Path guerrillas in Huayhuash on the morning of 31 October. Villagers of Huayhuash, which is located 100 km north of Ayacucho, tried to repel the attackers, but were outnumbered. Two members of a peasant defense patrol and a Shining Path guerrilla were killed in the attack.

Further Reportage

PY0411211491

[Editorial Report] Following are reports on terrorist activities in Peru compiled from Peruvian papers published between 23 and 28 October. Publication information is given in parentheses after each item.

The arrest of Shining Path leader Valentin Capcha Espiritu in the Raucana shantytown in Cono Este Township uncovered Shining Path plans and an important terrorist base. A people's committee, an indoctrination school, and a military detachment made up of groups of killers who carried out terrorist attacks operated in the shantytown. The school provided ideological indoctrination to nearly 1,500 families and military training for attacks. Police and military forces also found important documents containing details of terrorist actions. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Oct 91 p A14)

Combined Navy and police forces arrested 12 Shining Path terrorists during a house-to-house operation at the former Bocanegra ranch in Callao. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 24 Oct 91 p A8]

On 25 October, Shining Path terrorists compelled some students from San Marcos University to protest the deployment of Army troops on campus. The protest march, however, was unsucessful because most students attended class. A student said that most of those who participated in the march were Shining Path members and students who are forced to do so. He added that many students approve the presence of military forces at the university. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 26 Oct 91 p A7)

Counterterrorism Division personnel arrested two top leaders of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement political-military group in Cusco. The terrorists, identified as Lizardo Montesinos Valladares, alias Comrade Hugo, and Ana Isabel Flores Yanqui, alias Comrade Ana, led an annihilation group that operated in the southern mountains. (Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 27 Oct 91 p 30)

Colonel Carlos Roman La Hoz, chief of the political-military unit, reported in Quillabamba that the Army broke up two subversive groups known as Jose Martin La Torre Escalante and Luis de la Puente Uceda, whose leading members, Miguel Angel Baca Madera and Jesus Huamantico Ortega, were arrested. Roman said these actions prevented a series of attacks the terrorists were planning to carry out in the last two months against authorities and facilities in La Convencion Province and Lares District, Calca Province. The forces also seized weapons, ammunition, explosives, and a large quantity of subversive propaganda. (Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Oct 91 p A11)

On 26 October, Shining Path terrorists killed 12 people and burned five trucks in Ulcumayo District, 140 km from the city of Junin. The terrorists also murdered two community leaders from Concepcion Province. On the same date, 10 hooded terrorists killed two people in Matahuasi District, Concepcion Province, 30 km north of Huancayo. (Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 28 Oct 91 p A7)

* New Leftist Movement Announces Objectives

92SM0056A Lima CAMBIO in Spanish 3 Oct 91 p 16

[Text] At a time when serious difficulties occur among sectors of the Left and the political, labor, and people's organizations, and many fall into disagreement, skepticism and paralysis, owing, among other things, to the brutal neoliberal attack of imperialism and the right, a new political organization arises upon the national scene, with strength and optimism: Free Fatherland [Patria Libre]!

Our first public act, which occurred Wednesday the 18th in the presence of the members of our National Organizing Committee, served to publicize our concrete proposals for confronting the nation's current situation. Thousands of compatriots heeded our call, filling the facilities of the imposing awnings of the Hotel Crillon, in the very center of Lima.

Included among our companions and sympathizers were numerous leftist political leaders, union and popular administrators, assemblypersons, mayors and well-known personalities. The hope of our fatherland, THE YOUTH, were also present, together with delegations from various places around the country; also numerous were the greetings and messages of support we received. All this encourages us and stimulates us in the work that we have undertaken.

Our Message, Our Proposals

It was necessary for Free Fatherland to introduce itself to the country so as to clearly present our objectives, and to establish our proposals to confront the serious problems

facing the people: hunger, misery, unemployment, abandonment, militarization and lack of shelter.

The message, in the voices of our leaders, was that of reaffirming the revolutionary will to fight for the Fatherland and Socialism. Critically and self-critically, we have established the need to overcome old and wrong methods and styles of work on the part of the Left, to root ourselves in the masses and actively participate in their struggles, and we insist upon rescuing our rich national traditions so that, from this time onward, we will be able to project our struggle throughout the continental and international arenas.

Our objective is justice and development, well-being and freedom for the Peruvian people. We will achieve that objective with strength and by organizing the people in many battles. To advance in that direction, we propose that the Left and all members of the people's movement struggle together for a POPULAR SALVATION PLAN that contains the following points:

Defending the Lives of the People

1. A general increase in wages and salaries in accordance with the basic family basket of goods and services that today approaches 400 new soles.

2. Implementation of an emergency social program that will provide food for the people, and which respects the autonomous organizations of the masses (people's eateries, Glass of Milk Committees, Mothers' Clubs, etc.)

3. Have the rich pay for the crisis they have caused and convert the income tax into one of the State's prime sources of revenue.

4. Have the General Budget of the Republic place special emphasis on the education, health, and housing sectors.

5. Support national agriculture and the implementation of authentic agricultural-food reform that will permit consumption of the country's produce at moderate prices, and that puts an end to dependence on imported food.

6. Reactivate and support small- and medium-sized enterprises that generate sources of work.

7. True regional decentralization and development with the autonomous participation of the popular organizations.

8. Immediate recognition, entitlement and donation of services for marginal urban settlements. A halt to evictions and police raids.

9. Priority attention to mothers and children in the poor sectors, as well as to the elderly and handicapped.

10. Support for young people's rights to work, culture, and recreation. Support for the university to improve professional training, and opposition to military intervention in its corridors.

For Peace With Social Justice

One of the problems most seriously affecting the Peruvian people is violence. Everyone recognizes we are experiencing a war and that this war is intensifying and has spread to the national level. In the view of the current government and its repressive forces, the causes of this situation are the organizations that have taken up arms and also those who, from the people's camp, struggle for the interests of the people. For that reason they have desperately put into practice a counterinsurgency policy designed by the Pentagon, as a component of the "National Security" strategy, and have carried out so-called low-intensity conflicts.

Thus, the violence affecting the people is first and foremost the blind and brutal violence of the state apparatus defending the privileges of the rich, and bloodily repressing the fire of the protests from workers and the people.

In Free Fatherland we recognize that violence has historical origins and that it is an expression of a system of domination in crisis and a profoundly unjust society, where opportunism, deceit, and moral decay triumph. In the face of this, the people have every right to rebel, to defend themselves.

We reject and condemn the criminal acts of those calling themselves revolutionaries, as is the case of Shining Path, attacking and assassinating leaders and militants of the Left and the people's movement, for the "crime" of not sharing their ideas or accepting their proposals.

In Free Fatherland we heed the cries and needs of the vast majority of our people who want peace as a product of social justice. For that reason we direct ourselves to the Peruvian Church to propose that it assume, along with other representative institutions, the initiative of convoking a Great National Dialog with all the social and political organizations of the country, to discuss and identify common proposals to resolve the people's serious problems.

We appeal to the Peruvian Left, to Christians, patriots and forward-thinkers, to the entire Peruvian people, to unite in the fight under these and other banners that may arise out of the mutual and respectful exchange of proposals. In the streets, in the heat of battle, we will come together to topple neoliberalism and its counter-subversive activities.

Free Fatherland a hope...Free Fatherland now!

Lima, September 1991

National Organizing Committee

Uruguay

Economy, Finance Under Secretary Installed

PY0511015091 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Excerpts] During the inauguration of the new economy [and finance] under secretary, the economy minister confirmed the policy currently being implemented by the Economy and Finance Ministry.

[Economy and Finance Minister] accountant Enrique Braga stated that the confirmation of the economic policy must be interpreted as a message of tranquillity for the country's financial operators.

For his part, the brand new deputy minister, economist Gustavo Licandro Bosch, expressed full support for the current economic policy and voiced his satisfaction over the proposal to join the [economic] team headed by accountant Braga.

Licandro Bosch had been acting as adviser to accountant Braga and the Central Bank president in negotiations with multilateral credit organizations.

Incidentally, Licandro will leave for the United States within the next few hours to continue the process of negotiation with the credit organizations.

The outgoing economy and finance under secretary, economist Javier de Haedo, confirmed that his next assignment will be the post of Central Bank vice president, a post he will occupy after the appropriate approval by the Senate.

In a joint interview, the three economic leaders made remarks. Accountant Enrique Braga was the first one to talk about Licandro's inauguration as Economy and Finance Ministry under secretary.

[Begin recording] [Braga] The economic policy continues as foreseen in the beginning. I believe it is good to remember this because I do not know if everyone knows this. From time to time I have read our position of 21 August, which says many things in just a few paragraphs. Therefore, from that viewpoint, this is not important. From the team's viewpoint, there is a change of positions. Nevertheless, all the people who have been working already will continue to work—perhaps from a different angle. Both economist De Haedo, who obviously was a member of the economic team and will continue being a member of the economic team in a position as important as the one he held previously, and economist Licandro, who has been one of the most important figures advising both our ministry and the Central Bank, will continue to work.

[Unidentified reporter] Minister, pardon, you say that the economic policy will be maintained, but that this does not mean that there will not be a rescheduling as you announced a few days ago.

[Braga] I do not remember having announced any rescheduling.

[Reporter] (?You were leaving for) the United States and you said that some changes would be made ...

[Braga, interrupting] That had to do with drawing up a new program for the IMF, but that does not mean that any changes are being made in our position of 21 August. Indeed, some changes could probably be made in the previous IMF program, but that is a much older issue.

Therefore, I would say that as of 21 August we have been clearly mentioning the policies to be pursued. On the 21 August position, you will not find anything about [words indistinct], but you will indeed find a clear decision to further implement these policies. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] The resignation of [Central Bank Vice President] economist de Urtubey is being considered a fact.

[Braga] With respect to Urtubey's resignation, we initially announced that he had formalized his resignation as he had announced on 16 October. He has just formalized it. Therefore, this formalization is a fact. The submission to the Senate tomorrow of an approval petition for economist De Haedo to become Central Bank vice president is also a fact.

[Reporter] Accountant, is Urtubey's resignation linked to any change in Central Bank policies?

[Braga] No. I understand it is not. In October he announced his intention to resign for personal reasons.

[Reporter] Minister, are these the only changes or will there be more changes in the future?

[Braga] Well now, there is not any doubt that there will indeed be changes.

[Reporter, interrupting] But in fact ...

[Braga, interrupting] We are not thinking of making any change at this moment. [end recording]

These were the words of the economy and finance minister, accountant Enrique Braga.

PRC Communist Party Delegation Arrives

PY0411144091 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 27 Oct 91 p 17

[All Chinese names as published]

[Text] A friendship delegation of the Chinese Communist Party [CPC] arrived at noon yesterday at the Carrasco International Airport and will stay until 31 October.

The delegation is headed by Li Shuzheng (CPC Central Committee alternate member and deputy director of the International Liaison Department). The other delegation members are: Yang Maolin (direction chief of the International Liaison Department), Lian Shanji (division

chief of the International Liaison Department), Feng Deyu (f) (division chief of the International Liaison Department), Lu Anting (f) (secretary of the International Liaison Department), and interpreter Wan Yulin.

The delegation was welcomed by PRC Ambassador Yang Xuqiang, and Minister Counselor Huang Zidiang and Han Li (f). Aureliano Aguirre, Andres Arocena, and Jorge Moreira Parsons, members of the National Party Executive Board, also welcomed the PRC delegation.

Orthodox Communists Seek To Curb Reform Efforts

PY0411213091 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1446 GMT 4 Nov 91

[By Juan Antonio de Lucas]

[Text] Montevideo, 4 Nov (EFE)—Unconditional support for Cuban leader Fidel Castro has become the ultimate banner Uruguayan orthodox communists are raising in their attempt to curb the changes undertaken by reformers.

The Cuban president, inflexible to the process of the political transformation of communism, is now the point of foreign reference for the so-called Marxist "conservatives" who were deprived of the tutelage of the defunct CPSU.

Defeated two months ago by the reformers in a Central Committee meeting that decided to transform the Communist Party of Uruguay (PCU) into a "movement for democratic socialism," the orthodox communists have regrouped their cadres to get ready for the final battle.

It will be on the first days of April, and not on 6 December as initially scheduled, that the militant communists will decide in an internal referendum whether to approve the changes proposed by PCU Secretary General Jaime Perez.

Moreover, in its last meeting two months ago, the Central Committee decided to eliminate the term "democratic socialism" from the reform proposal and replace it with "the action to contribute to forging organizational forms of the required political organization."

This more generic and unprecise proposal is a response to the coldness with which the Socialist Party of Uruguay responded to the communist reformers' proposal to build the controversial "movement for democratic socialism."

Both the PCU and the Socialist Party, in addition to 16 other political organizations, make up the leftist coalition Broad Front, which in the 1989 elections became the third-strongest force in the country and won the strategic Montevideo mayoralty seat.

Meanwhile, the PCU's Marxist-Leninist faction is preventing the party from "ending up in the hands of the social democrats" and is still collecting signatures to call for a special congress to critically review the renovation attempts.

Under these conditions, all Uruguayan communists' attention is once again focusing on Fidel Castro's attitudes and responses. Castro has always been the point of reference for leftist Ibero-American parties.

The detonating factor in the most recent conflict was Castro's remarks against the multiparty system and so-called bourgeois Western democracy, which he called "complete garbage."

Senator German Araujo, of the Broad Front Unity Movement, defended Castro when he said that "in Cuba there is a social democracy broader than in Uruguay," while Hugo Cores, of the Party for the Victory of the People, justified those remarks by "the continuous aggression the Cuban people are enduring."

Communist Deputy Rafael Sanseviero said: "As far as income distribution is concerned, in Cuba there is more democracy, but not so regarding the existence of instruments of political representation."

Moreover, Deputy Francisco Rodriguez Camusso, of the People's Broad Front Movement, was categorical in his criticism of Fidel Castro when he said: "Only those who support the idea of a government of classes or minority groups can say there is social and economic democracy in Cuba, where the only employer is the state."

Guyana

IMF Gives $24 Million for Structural Adjustment

FL0211180091 Bridgetown CANA in English
1547 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 2, CANA—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is to release U.S.24 million to the Guyana Government under the fund's enhanced structural adjustment facility, it was officially announced here.

The money for balance of payments support is to be released in two half-yearly tranches. It is part of the government's three-year structural adjustment programme with the IMF. The first disbursement of U.S.12 million dollars is available immediately, the government said.

Guyana's economy has been in shambles for more than a decade with zero or negative growth and a currency which has steadily fallen to 0.8 U.S. cents in value. Since 1988, the government has abandoned its state control policies of the 1960's and '70's, and with IMF assistance, has been liberalising the economy and selling off state enterprises.

Top officials of President Desmond Hoyte's administration estimate there will be a four percent growth of the economy this year. Projections are that foreign reserves

in the Bank of Guyana, now put at about U.S.70 million dollars, will reach 100 million by year end—the highest level since 1975.

Conflicts Continue Over Voters List, Timing

FL0111180891 Bridgetown CANA in English 1253 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 1, CANA—An independent elections watch agency has expressed disappointment over the possibility of Guyana's elections proceeding despite a "very flawed" Preliminary voters list.

The Electoral Assistance Bureau (EAB), established earlier this year with funding from the Washington-based National Democratic Institute (NDI), said that an honest election cannot result from a list that does not "truly represent the electorate."

Carter Center officials, monitoring developments leading up to the election, had suggested the poll be postponed to the first quarter of next year to give the authorities here time to sort out electoral problems. The government, however, seems prepared to hold the poll by the year-end constitutional deadline.

Meanwhile, presidential candidate Paul Tennassee has been criticising Rudy Collins, chairman of the Elections Commission. Tennassee, leader of the Democratic Labour Movement (DLM), told supporters that electing Collins as chairman of the Elections Commission was "like putting a cat to watch milk" because of his past diplomatic position under the Forbes Burnham government.

Tennassee was the only opposition leader to have voiced reservations about Collins' appointment to replace ousted Commission Chairman Sir Harold Bollers. He was castigated by the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) and the rest of the opposition, which fielded Collins' name along with five others for selection by President Desmond Hoyte.

Government: Poll Constitutionally Due by December

FL0411130991 Bridgetown CANA in English 2247 GMT 2 Nov 91

[By Urrell Wilkinson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 2, CANA—The Guyana Government plans to adhere to constitutional provisions requiring the holding of general elections within three months after the dissolution of Parliament, Attorney-General Keith Massiah said Friday night. The announcement by Massiah in a radio and television broadcast effectively dashed speculation that the government would have postponed the elections until early next year because of complaints of a faulty voters list.

Massiah, giving the government's interpretation of the Constitution, said the provision requiring the holding of elections 90 days after the dissolution of Parliament was "mandatory" and, as such, "must be obeyed."

Opposition parties and the U.S.-based Carter Centre which was monitoring the election preparations, had urged a postponement of the elections to correct the faulty voters list. Opposition parties said the list, on which the poll due by December will be conducted, had omitted over 110,000 voters. The opposition had hoped the government would have declared a state of emergency and recalled Parliament to approve a postponement of the elections until early next year. President Desmond Hoyte dissolved Parliament on September 28.

Massiah, noting an emergency was legally defined here as a "condition approximating to that of war," said a declaration of a state of emergency in the current circumstances would not be legally sanctioned.

"I do not think it can be said that any such condition exists or that there has arisen a sudden state of danger. All that has emerged is a controversy as to the state of the list and its usefulness," Massiah said. The attorney-general said he had advised President Hoyte that there was no legal basis for declaring a state of emergency or recalling Parliament to approve a postponement of the elections.

Election Commission Head on Faulty Voters List

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[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 3, CANA—The chairman of Guyana's Elections Commission has again expressed confidence a faulty voters list, condemned by political parties, can be corrected in time for general elections due by the end of December. Rudy Collins was speaking to reporters on Saturday, hours after Attorney-General Keith Massiah announced he had advised President Desmond Hoyte that there was no legal basis for recalling the dissolved Parliament to approve a postponement of the elections until early in the new year.

Opposition parties and the U.S.-based Carter Centre, invited by the government to monitor the election preparations and the balloting, were urging the government to postpone the elections to facilitate a cleaning up of the flawed voters list.

Collins told reporters if correcting the list proved impossible, he would so inform President Hoyte. "I would tell him that I cannot produce a credible voters list and from my perspective, any elections we produce will be in default."

The preliminary voters list, posted for public scrutiny at the end of September, omits an estimated 110,000 voters, opposition parties said. Collins said when the final list appears, the commission would be unable to accede to opposition party demands for three weeks to vet the document. Calling three weeks "an inordinately

long period of time" in light of the opposition's familiarity with the list, Collins promised, nevertheless, that he would allow "a reasonable time" of more than one week.

President Hoyte dissolved Parliament at the end of September for the elections which, under the Constitution, must be held in three months. The poll was originally due last year, but had to be postponed after similar problems were encountered in putting together the voters list.

Collins was appointed elections commission chairman earlier this year. Opposition parties, which have repeatedly complained of rigged elections here since 1964, had pinned their hopes on Collins, a former diplomat, to clean up the tarnished image of Guyana's electoral process. On Saturday, in response to a reporter's question, Collins acknowledged his credibility had suffered amid the controversy that has plagued the preparations for the poll. "My credibility, if I had any, is seriously in question," he said. Collins said his credibility had suffered because he opted not to take sides in the controversy. He said, however, his credibility could withstand any kind of "rational scrutiny."

Further, Collins regretted his decision to accept the chairmanship of the commission. "I have a lot of regrets in hindsight," he said, complaining he did not get the support he was expecting from "some quarters." "My greatest disappointment is that we did not seize the opportunity to redress by ourselves, for ourselves, a situation where the foundation for change had been laid in the unprecedented electoral reforms," Collins said, referring to President Hoyte's decision to abolish controversial aspects of the electoral process including overseas voting.

In light of Attorney-General Keith Massiah's statement on Friday night that the poll cannot be postponed, political observers here said a boycott of the elections by opposition parties was most likely, given their objections to the voters list.